



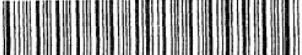
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HIGH SPOTS  
OF  
AMERICAN LITERATURE



HIGH SPOTS  
OF  
AMERICAN LITERATURE

by  
*Merle Johnson*

*Compiler of A Bibliography of Mark Twain,  
A Bibliographic Check List of James Branch Cabell,  
American First Editions, etc., etc.*

A PRACTICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY AND  
BRIEF LITERARY ESTIMATE OF  
OUTSTANDING AMERICAN BOOKS

*New York*  
BENNETT BOOK STUDIOS, INC.  
1929

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HIGH SPOTS  
OF  
AMERICAN LITERATURE



HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

IN THREE PARTS

*PART I*



## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

A COLLECTION IN FIRST EDITION

HIGH SPOTS, referring to those literary landmarks that rise above mediocrity. The Old World, through the test of years and culture, has a definite list of such landmarks. The New World, having been busy with physical mountains and prairies, now turns to view what eminences of song and story have been created in the march from Ocean to Ocean; the New World seeks to know what of æsthetic spirit it possesses, beyond cities and factories and mines. Partly this arises from the desire to round out the sense of accomplishment and power, partly from a wish to preserve in a future of speed and change those things from the past that are really of vital or eminent worth.

AMERICAN, in this connection means North American (not to confuse with the America South of us). Those to the north of us speak the same official language, come of the same racial roots, have passed through the same pioneer struggles; in addition many of their men of literary prominence have spent years south of the border, and have had their works issued first in the United States. South America, with its Latin culture

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and language, has yet to develop many world recognized voices (though that must soon come) and their literature is practically unread as yet in North America.

LITERATURE, in the sense of general and permanent interest, as opposed to the importance of the moment, scientific or technical; not mere records of facts and events, but contributions to our understanding of life in the present and future: books containing a point of view as well as a narrative; books with the story of human emotions, struggles, and aspirations common to all the time of man. However, I do not overlook the idea that this particular collection, being by American authors, should give some picture of the American scene. *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Virginian*, *The Covered Wagon*, *To Have and to Hold*, among others, paint authentic pictures of history. Many of the books in this collection, such as *Ben Hur* and *Men of Iron*, have no American background. Other things being equal, I have chosen those which have the American setting; *In Ole Virginia*, *Old Creole Days*, present pictures of the old South; *The Covered Wagon*, *Wolfville*, *The Luck of Roaring Camp*, show the pioneer West; even the trail of dialect which will one day simmer down to the Great American Language is represented in *Uncle Remus*, *The Four Million*, *Hans Breitmann's Party*, etc. It is my intention to

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compile a subsequent list of books important to the knowledge of America, which shall include such items as Paine's *Rights of Man*, *The Age of Reason*, *Franklin's Autobiography*, Mrs. Eddy's *Science and Health*, Roosevelt's *Autobiography*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Grant's Memoirs*, etc.; books which in their time have influenced the life and, more important, the thoughts of hundreds of thousands of Americans.

**FIRST EDITION.** The books in this collection are the first printing and in the original binding, so far as can be ascertained. Here sentiment enters in! In front of you is *Tom Sawyer*, square, blue-covered. Just as it thrilled Grandfather as a boy to hold it bright and new with its "freight" of Adventures, so it thrills Grandson to hold one of the precious few that have escaped the wear and tear of countless readings. There are the two volumes of the story that hastened the march of a million feet—*Uncle Tom's Cabin*. This thin modest number from Wiley and Putnam's Library is whence radium-like the genius of Poe has stimulated the imagination of the world. That squat book in ridiculous flower-design binding contains the story of *Ben Hur*, chariot racer extraordinary, who continues to speed in play, story, and picture before countless thousands. One of these thin pamphlets is the birthplace of *Rip Van Winkle*, who woke to find himself immortal!

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Most great books are rare in first editions. That is because generations of readers have thumbed to pieces all but a few of the original copies. Of late years the practice of higher-priced, limited issues on permanent paper has placed directly in the hands of collectors a large number of fine books that will not go through the mill of repeated reading and trips to junk shops. But these anticipated aristocrats are not always the ones of great power. The famous book of tomorrow may today be in process of printing on poor and perishable paper in some job printer's cellar in a country town, and reach its renown only after all but a few of the original copies have disappeared.

Scarcity is incidental to this collection of first editions. Poe's *Tamerlane* is perhaps the rarest American book of a renowned author. Yet it has no place in a list of great and readable books. Analysing the elements that make for the longevity of books, we have the "extension of personality" or as others phrase it "the literature of escape," in which the reader identifies himself with the hero who accomplishes the wonderful things which the reader would enjoy or possibly has dreamed of doing. Thus Jurgen, the humble pawn-broker, becomes the lover of queens; Ben Hur wins the chariot race; Leather Stocking unerringly hits a mark the size of a hazelnut; Tom Sawyer defies authority, and finds treasure in the

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cave: and so on. Another element of lasting appeal is exemplified in the “adventure” story which takes the reader away from the humdrum events of his daily existence. Such are *Moby Dick*, *Where Angels Fear to Tread*, perhaps London’s *Call of the Wild*. Reminiscence of childhood has perennial charm for older readers, and so we have *The Old Swimming Hole*, *Little Women*, *The Court of Boyville*, *The Story of a Bad Boy*, etc. The saving grace of humor has kept many a brain-child from “honorable oblivion.” Whether it is in the form of satire, burlesque, or practical joke, the tale with a humorous or whimsical turn has a good chance for survival.

Here arises the question of the so-called “realistic” books of the present generation, marvelous depictions, they may be, of life in drab or tragic aspects, perhaps not inspirational, except by contrast. Useful, necessary, almost surgical in aspect, they have their time and place. The only question is of permanence. We list our Dreisers, Lewises, and Andersons, full of hope for the future, realizing their insight and power, but unable to foresee if, or no, “Pollyanna” may be a household word years after their names have been forgotten.

THE SELECTION OF THIS LIST: In part it is the classified verdict of the reading public

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over the years; in part it is the recommendations of persons presumed to qualify as experts in literature; in a small measure it is my own preference. Where the author is of special importance or has diversified styles, more than one title is given. (Where too many books by one author have been proposed I sometimes fear that that author has failed to score a direct hit.)

AS TO WHY SO MANY BOOKS ARE NAMED, permitting the inclusion of so many interesting, readable, but admittedly minor items, I give you a quotation from an editorial in the *Washington Post* for December 24, 1927:

"A Stickler for the high things of literature objects to the proposed honor to the memory of Mrs. Burnett, author of *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, not because of her invention of the little lord, with his curls and velvets, but because, in his judgment, she was 'never anything but a third-rate author, with about the evaluation of life of a high school sophomore.' Regarding that categorical and dogmatic condemnation, it is possible that opinions may vary widely. It might be urged, also, that it is not always feasible to measure literary merit in terms of pure mathematics. Macaulay tried that method sometimes, and, when he did, invariably failed. Furthermore, if it is only to litterateurs of the first magnitude that memorials are to be erected, then the memorials will be, like the proverbial angels' visits, few and far between."

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Finality is far from my mind in this collection; it is a foundation, not a finished structure. Literature is a thing of life, growth, not of settled forms. The collection caters to no school of literary prejudice. It is as if I had the job of going over the countless manuscripts in a literary competition, eliminating the distinctly inferior, reducing the lot to a reasonable number for final review by the prize-giving judges. The judges in this case are the men and women of the future whose names we do not know and whose faces we shall not see. But the fascination of minor prophecy moves me, though I know not whether the years call me false or true!



## GEORGE ADE

1866 —

Fables | (rule) | In | (rule) | Slang | (rule) |  
by | George | Ade | Illustrated | by | Clyde  
J. | Newman | (rule) | Published by | Her-  
bert S. Stone | and Company | Chicago &  
New York | MDCCCC

“Fables in Slang” in red, balance in black, enclosed in pictorial border. This title is the unusual double page, starting the right hand page with “Illustrated.” It appears to be hand-drawn.

Later issues have the number of thousands foot of copyright page.

Fables in this case means foibles, American foibles, as seen by Ade in 1900. Equally successful pictures of the foibles of succeeding periods are in his later collections of fables under different titles.

## LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

1832-1888

Little Women | or, | Meg, Jo, Beth And Amy |  
By Louisa M. Alcott | Illustrated By May  
Alcott | Boston | Roberts Brothers | 1868

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Little Women | or | Meg, Jo, Beth And Amy | Part Second | By Louisa M. Alcott | With Illustrations | Boston | Roberts Brothers | 1869

Little Men: | Life At Plumfield With Jo's Boys. | By | Louisa M. Alcott, | Author of "Little Women," "An Old-Fashioned Girl," | "Hospital Sketches." | (ornament) | Boston: | Roberts Brothers. | 1871.

Bound variously in green or dark red cloth, lettered in gilt.

It may be there are still other colors of the cloth.

Famous juveniles of our Victorian Age, before flappers learned to flap.

## THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH

1836-1907

The | Story of a Bad Boy | by | Thomas Bailey Aldrich. | With Illustrations. | (publishers' monogram) | Boston: | Fields, Osgood, & Co. | 1870.

Aldrich was a well known writer of both prose and poetry and personally of scintillating wit, but this story of his own boyhood seems destined to survive the balance of his output.

646125

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JAMES LANE ALLEN

1849-1925

6 Flute and Violin | And Other Kentucky Tales |  
Dept And Romances. By James | Lane Allen.  
Order Illustrated | (portrait head by Pyle) | New  
York | Harper & Brothers | MDCCCXCI

5 A Kentucky Cardinal | A Story | by | James  
Lane Allen | Author of "The Blue-Grass  
Region of Kentucky" | "Flute and Violin"  
Etc. | Illustrated | (publishers' seal in red) |  
New York | Harper & Brothers Publishers |  
1895

4 Aftermath | Part Second of | "A Kentucky  
Cardinal" | by | James Lane Allen | Author  
of | "The Blue-Grass Region of Kentucky" |  
"Flute and Violin" Etc. | (publishers' seal  
in red) | New York | Harper & Brothers  
Publishers | 1896

3 Pictures of the neglected epoch in America before the great re-  
bellion, invested with a bit of heart and dramatic interest.

Flute and Violin is placed first because there seems to be power  
and drama in some of these short stories beyond the setting.

HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

SHERWOOD ANDERSON

1876 —

Winesburg, Ohio | A Group of Tales of | Ohio  
Small Town Life | by | Sherwood Anderson |  
(publisher's seal) | New York | B. W.  
Huebsch | MCMXIX

Enclosed in single line border with panel lines below  
third and fifth lines and publisher's seal.

First issue has top stained yellow. I have observed  
a break in the title-page rule border in the second  
issues.

The Triumph of the Egg | A Book of Impressions | From American Life | In Tales and Poems | by | Sherwood Anderson | In Clay by | Tennessee Mitchell | (publisher's seal) | (quotation, six lines, from "Mid-American Chants") | Photographs by Eugene Hutchinson | New York B. W. Huebsch, Inc. MCMXXI

First issue has top stained yellow.

A Story Teller's Story | The tale of an American writer's journey | through his own imaginative world and | through the world

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

of facts, with many of | his experiences and impressions among other | writers—told in many notes—in four books | —and an Epilogue. | Sherwood Anderson | (publisher's seal) | New York B. W. Huebsch, Inc.  
Mcmxxiv

Enclosed in double line border.

The first two books are collections of sketches of Mid-West people and scenes; A Story Teller's Story is autobiography with much the same people and scenes. Frankly, the three books are here because I felt that Anderson's picture of these people and scenes should be in the collection, but was unable to make a definite choice of one book.

## WILLIAM BEEBE

1877 —

Jungle Peace | by | William Beebe | Curator of Birds, New York Zoological Park, and | Director of Tropical Research Station | Illustrated from Photographs | (publishers' seal) | New York | Henry Holt and Company | 1918

The first edition does not have the foreword by Theodore Roosevelt.

Nature's drama in the Tropics set down by a writer who sees both with the eye of a naturalist and a human being. I choose this one

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

of Beebe's books because it was chosen by that great naturalist and human being, T. R., and what was good enough for Teddy is good enough for me.

### EDWARD BELLAMY

1850-1898

Looking Backward | 2000-1887 | by | Edward Bellamy | Author of "Miss Ludington's Sister"; "Dr. Heidenhoff's Process"; | "A Nantucket Idyl," &c., &c. | (publishers' seal) | Boston | Ticknor and Company | 211 Tremont Street. | 1888

Issued in three colors of cloth.

Fanciful sketch of civilization to come—with many of its predictions (1928) already come true.

### AMBROSE BIERCE

1842-1914

Tales | of | Soldiers and Civilians | by | Ambrose Bierce | San Francisco | E. L. G. Steele | 208 California Street | 1891.

Chronicler of the bizarre—his mystery or psychological story "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," from this volume of short stories, had the honor to be included in Carolyn Wells's collection (1923) of the ten best mystery tales of all time.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT

1794-1878

Poems | by | William Cullen Bryant. | (double rule) | Cambridge: | Printed by Hilliard and Metcalf. | 1821.

My copy measures seven and three-quarter inches in height.

Through vagaries of early book production there seem to be copies of varying sizes. It would be difficult to make it a point of issue.

Bryant spent many years at Literature, but penned nothing more powerful than the "Thanatopsis" of his early youth, contained in this volume.

### HENRY CUYLER BUNNER

1855-1896

"Short Sixes" | Stories to be Read While the Candle Burns | by | H. C. Bunner | Author of "Airs from Arcady" "The Midge" etc. | Illustrated by | C. Jay Taylor, F. Opper and S. B. Griffin | Puck | Keppler & Schwarzmann | New York | 1891

It is difficult to determine a first edition as the publishers reprinted the book many years from the same plates without changing the date.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

The sheets of a copy with written inscription dated "Christmas, 1890" measure 7 inches by  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches. In other copies I have noted many type defects: as, broken type first letters of the right hand words, paragraph foot of p. 82; page number, p. 97, etc., etc., which do not occur in the copy here described.

A collection of short stories of delicate humor.

### FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT

1849-1924

Little Lord Fauntleroy | by | Frances Hodgson Burnett | (illustration) | New-York | Charles Scribner's Sons | 1886

Some copies bear the De Vinne printer's imprint, and others are from the press of J. J. Little. As Little printed the second and later editions it is possible the De Vinne is first.

The joys and woes of a poor little rich boy of the mauve decade. Loathed by all the now grown men whose mothers, influenced by the book, clothed them in plush suits and wide white collars—but still has a heart-compelling interest in the fortunes of the "Little Lord."

### GELETT BURGESS

1866 —

The Purple Cow! (San Francisco) (1895)

Title is included in pictorial design on outside page.  
Without covers measures  $7\frac{7}{8}$  by  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

The high spot of American nonsense verse of which this pamphlet carries seven other rhymes besides the little couplets.

Are You a Bromide? | or, | The Sulphitic Theory | Expounded and Exemplified According | To the Most Recent Researches | Into the Psychology of | Boredom | Including Many Well-known Bromidioms | Now in Use | by | Gelett Burgess, S. B. | Author of "Goops and How to be Them," "The | Burgess Nonsense Book," "Vivette," &c., &c. | With Decorations by the Author | New York | B. W. Huebsch | 1906

Title enclosed in decorative border in red.

Nonsense philosophy the title of which has joined the American language.

## JOHN BURROUGHS

1837-1921

Wake-Robin | by | John Burroughs | (publishers' seal) | New York | Published by Hurd and Houghton | Cambridge: Riverside Press | 1871

Decorative head-piece above "Wake-Robin."  
"W" and "R" in Wake-Robin, background of pub-

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lishers' seal, and "Cambridge: Riverside Press" in red, balance in black.

Copies exist with and without a pictorial design on the side covers.

Nature and philosophy combined. Burroughs said in late years that he could not tell why this had been his most popular book.

### ELLIS PARKER BUTLER

1869 —

Pigs Is Pigs | by | Ellis Parker Butler | (publishers' seal) | Illustrations by Will Crawford | New York | McClure, Phillips & Co. | MCMVI

Title enclosed in single line border.

A short sketch of a station-master's dilemma, with a title destined to be quoted for generations.

### WILLIAM ALLEN BUTLER

1825-1902

Nothing To Wear: | An Episode of City Life. | (From Harpers Weekly.) | (rule) | Illustrated by Hoppin. | New York: | Rudd & Carleton, 310 Broadway. | (rule) | MDCCCLVII.

Title entirely in red.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Butler was a lawyer who wrote for diversion and the theme of this amusing poem has been told of all femininity from Eve to Ever-lasting.

### JAMES BRANCH CABELL

1879 —

Jurgen | A Comedy of Justice | by | James  
Branch Cabell | (quotation, five lines) |  
New York | Robert M. McBride & Co. |  
1919

“Jurgen” is apparently hand-lettered with “A Comedy of Justice” between lines.

Measures  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches across top including covers.

A study of the average man's delusions of grandeur and power. Various of these delusions are concerned a bit spectacularly with the fair sex, on account of which the book was suppressed for a time.

### GEORGE W. CABLE

1844-1925

Old Creole Days | by | George W. Cable |  
New York | Charles Scribner's Sons | 743  
and 745 Broadway | 1879

Issued in two or more colors of cloth.

Six short stories concerned with old creole days and the Louisiana scene.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### WILL CARLETON

1845-1912

Farm Ballads. | by Will Carleton. | Illustrated. | (publishers' seal) | New York: | Harper & Brothers, Publishers, | Franklin Square. | 1873.

Carleton was once the popular "Poet of the People" but what has survived is "Over the Hill to the Poorhouse" contained in the above collection.

### WILLA CATHER

1875 —

My Ántonia | by | Willa Sibert Cather | (quotation, one line, Virgil) | With Illustrations by | W. T. Benda | (publishers' seal) | Boston and New York | Houghton Mifflin Company | The Riverside Press Cambridge | 1918

A study of the second wave of American pioneer life in the middle west—the emigrant direct there from overseas; a balanced picture, without the over emphasis of the drab as in our "realistic" writers.

# HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

SAMUEL L. CLEMENS

“MARK TWAIN”

1835-1910

The Adventures | of | Tom Sawyer | by †  
Mark Twain. | (rule) | The American  
Publishing Company, | Hartford, Conn.:  
Chicago, Ill.: Cincinnati, Ohio. | A Ro-  
man & Co., San Francisco, Cal. | 1876.

Measures one inch across top of covers, and verso  
of preface page is blank. Issued in blue cloth and vari-  
ous leathers. This and the following two titles were  
first issued in England for copyright purposes, but I  
prefer the American edition.

Recognized as one of the supreme portrayals of boy character.

Adventures | of | Huckleberry Finn | (Tom  
Sawyer's Comrade). | Scene: The Missis-  
sippi Valley. | Time: Forty to Fifty Years  
Ago. | by | Mark Twain. | With One Hun-  
dred and Seventy-Four Illustrations. |  
New York: | Charles L. Webster and  
Company. | 1885.

In the first bound copies, page 283 is pasted on a  
stub. Issued in green or blue cloth and various leathers.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

The companion and defacto sequel to "Tom Sawyer," "Huckleberry Finn" is regarded by some as in itself the great American novel; but I prefer to list the two books as an inseparable pair without admitting the superiority of the later book.

The Tragedy of | Pudd'nhead Wilson | And  
the Comedy | Those Extraordinary Twins |  
by | Mark Twain | (Samuel L. Clemens) |  
With Marginal Illustrations. | (ornament) |  
1894 | Hartford, Conn. | American Pub-  
lishing Company.

"Pudd'nhead Wilson" and "With Marginal Illustrations," in red, balance in black. Issued in brown cloth and various leathers.

One of the great mystery and detective stories.

"Eve's Diary" and "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg" are examples of Mark Twain's other styles.

## JAMES FENIMORE COOPER 1789-1851

The Last | of | the Mohicans; | a narrative of  
| 1757. | by the author of "the Pioneers".  
| (rule) | (two line quotation) | (rule) | in  
two volumes. | Vol. I. [Vol. II.] (double  
rule) | Philadelphia: | H. C. Carey & I. Lea—  
Chestnut-Street. | (rule) | 1826.

Exaggeratedly romantic tale of Colonial America, but with the tremendous interest of our forefather's struggle with the savage in man and nature.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

The "Leather-Stocking" Tales, built around the character from which the tales are named, are five in number: "The Deer-slayer," "The Last of the Mohicans," "The Pathfinder," "The Pioneers," and "The Prairie." On these the fame of Cooper is based, and the popular mind has singled out "The Last of the Mohicans" when Leather-Stocking was in the prime of manhood, for its favorite.

"The Spy," a story of the Revolution, and "The Bravo," the story of Paul Jones, are others of Cooper's works still cited.

### STEPHEN CRANE

1870-1900

The Red Badge | Of Courage | (ornament) |  
An Episode of the American Civil War |  
(ornaments) | by | (ornaments) | Stephen  
Crane | (ornaments) | (publishers' seal) |  
(ornaments) | (ornaments) | New York |  
D. Appleton and Company | 1895

Ornaments in red, balance in black.

The first issue has perfect type, last line page 225.

A writer whose power was only recognized in his own country when a Pole, Joseph Conrad, pointed out his worth as a great contributor to Literature. "The Red Badge of Courage" is a novel of war by America's first great realist. "Maggie, A Girl of the Streets" was his original attempt in the field of realism but was not quite so well rounded a bit of artistry as the above title.

War is | Kind by | Stephen | Crane | (orna-  
ment) | Drawings | by Will | Bradley |  
New York | Frederick A | Stokes Com-  
pany | MDCCXCIX

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Title enclosed in ornamental border with panel lines under "Crane," "ornament," "Bradley," and above "Drawings" and "New York."

Short poems in what would be called the modern manner. "The Black Riders" was his first volume of verse, but the poems in "War is Kind," especially the title poem, are held to be more artistic.

The "Blue Hotel" in the collection of short stories entitled "The Monster" and "The Open Boat" in the collection by that name have been widely praised as remarkable stories.

### GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS

1824-1892

Prue and I. | by | George William Curtis. |  
(rule) | (quotation, one line, Twelfth  
Night) | (rule) | New York: | Dix, Ed-  
wards & Co., 321 Broadway. | 1856.

Issued in various colors of cloth.

A series of pleasant essays strung together on the theme of the man of culture and understanding in humble circumstances whose wife—mirabile dictu—sympathizes with his day dreams and quiet philosophy.

### RICHARD HENRY DANA, JR.

1815-1882

Two Years | Before the Mast. | A | Personal  
Narrative of | Life at Sea. | (rule) | (quota-  
tion, five lines, Coleridge's Wallenstein.) |

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(rule) | New York: | Harper & Brothers—  
82 Cliff-Street. | (rule) | 1840.

Published as number CVI of Harper's Family Library. The list of this library on the back cover reaches only number 105. This volume is in tan cloth. There is also a black cloth cover which may be also on the first sheets—for a different circulation.

On the surface a mere narrative corresponding to the title, but with underlying qualities of imagination and power that place it as a book with literary merit.

## MARGARET DELAND

1857 —

Old Chester Tales | by | Margaret Deland |  
With Illustrations by | Howard Pyle |  
(publishers' seal) | Harper & Brothers  
Publishers | New York and London | 1899

Title enclosed in double line. Panel line under first, third, and fifth lines, and publishers' seal.

Mrs. Deland, in a letter dated 1899, wishes her publishers to correct an error on p. 5, where "Chester" appears as "Chelsea." This is the sixth line from the foot of the page. Also in the first printings the titles of Mary E. Wilkins books, first page of advertisement at the back, are in small caps, later corrected to large caps, corresponding to the style of the other advertisement.

Short stories of a small town of New England in the horse and carriage age. Woven about the village minister and the human problems which must be met with insight and without dogma.

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### EMILY DICKINSON

1830-1886

The Single Hound | Poems of a Lifetime |  
by | Emily Dickinson | With an Intro-  
duction by her Niece | Martha Dickinson  
Bianchi | (publishers' seal) | Boston |  
Little, Brown, and Company | 1914

Short poems written in the 19th century in the 20th century man-  
ner.

### MARY MAPES DODGE

1838-1905

Hans Brinker; | or, | The Silver Skates. |  
A Story of Life in Holland. | by M. E.  
Dodge, | Author of "The Irvington  
Stories." | Illustrated by | F. O. C. Dar-  
ley and Thomas Nast. | (publishers' mono-  
gram) | New York: | James O'Kane, 126  
Nassau Street. | M.DCCCLXVI.

"H" and "B" of "Hans Brinker" and publishers'  
monogram in red. Balance in black.

A story of boy and girl life in Holland read and beloved by mil-  
lions of American boys and girls.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

JOHN DOS PASSOS

1896 —

Three | Soldiers | John | Dos Passos | New  
York | George H. Doran Company | [1921]

Title hand lettered. Author's name incorporated  
into design, lettering in white, design in black.

First (and foremost) of the war-disillusion novels.

THEODORE DREISER

1871 —

Sister Carrie | by | Theodore Dreiser | (orna-  
ment) | New York | Doubleday, Page &  
Co. | 1900

Title enclosed in double line border. Double line  
panel under "Theodore Dreiser" and ornament.

Modern American realism when it was a pup; spades called spades  
before it became fashionable.

Jennie | Gerhardt | A Novel | by | Theodore  
Dreiser | Author of | "Sister Carrie" |  
(publishers' seal) | Harper & Brothers  
Publishers | New York and London |  
M-C-M-X-I

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Title enclosed in single line border. Inner single line borders around "Jennie Gerhardt," "A Novel by Theodore Dreiser" (etc.) publishers' seal, and publishers' name and date.

In the first issue, "end" at end of line 8, p. 89, is perfect corresponding to the type in "ending" at left end of same line. It is said the first binding had only "Dreiser" on the back strip, but I have seen the later sheets also in that binding.

An American | Tragedy | by | Theodore  
Dreiser | Volume One [Volume Two] |  
(publishers' seal) | New York | Boni &  
Liveright | MCMXXV

Title enclosed in decorative border.

The small paper edition was published two months before the signed edition on large paper.

As with Sherwood Anderson, I twitter among the lava flows from the Dreiser volcano, and list three for fear of being called "reactionary." I am almost persuaded to include "The Genius" for extra measure.

FINLEY PETER DUNNE

1867 —

Mr. Dooley | In Peace and in War | (ornament) | Boston | Small, Maynard & Company | 1898

Dunne puts into the mouth of Dooley, the Irish saloon-keeper, his humorous satires on American events and politics. Each article

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

is short, with a never failing "snapper" at the end. I choose this collection simply because it contains "On Our Hero in Politics," the same being Theodore Roosevelt.

### EDWARD EGGLESTON

1837-1902

The | Hoosier School-Master. | A Novel. |  
by | Edward Eggleston. | With Twenty-  
Nine Illustrations. | New York: | Orange  
Judd and Company, | 245 Broadway.  
[1871]

The Hoosier | School-Boy | by | Edward Eg-  
gleston | Illustrated | New York: | Orange  
Judd Company | 751 Broadway | 1883.

Another copy of this book has the Charles Scribner's Sons imprint, dated the same year. Both the Orange Judd and the Scribner books carry Scribner advertisements. Another mystery!

The Hoosier School-Master is reputed to be Eggleston's great book, but I like the "School-boy" and claim the two can be regarded as one book.

Eggleston also wrote "The Circuit Rider," a story of the itinerant missionary-preacher in the pioneer middle west. I consider, however, that this book belongs in my other collection of American historical works.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### RALPH WALDO EMERSON

1803-1882

Essays: | by | R. W. Emerson. | (rule) | Boston: | James Munroe and Company. | (rule) | MDCCCXLI.

Essays on "Self-Reliance," "Friendship," and kindred themes by America's first great philosopher. It is possible that one should also have "Essays, Second Series" to complete the work.

### EUGENE FIELD

1850-1895

A Little Book | of | Western Verse | by | Eugene Field | Chicago | MDCCCLXXXIX

"Western Verse" and "Chicago" in red, balance in black.

Two hundred and fifty copies only.

Contains the immortal "Little Boy Blue."

A Little Book | of | Profitable Tales | by | Eugene Field | Chicago | MDCCCLXXXIX

"Profitable Tales" and "Chicago" in red, balance in black.

Two hundred and fifty copies only.

These are prose skits, amusing and typical of American columnists of whom Mark Twain and Eugene Field were pioneers. It is in-

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

cluded here mainly because the two books listed above were published as a "pair," and to give a side light on Field's character.

### PAUL LEICESTER FORD

1865-1902

The Honorable | Peter Stirling | and | What  
People Thought of Him | by | Paul Leices-  
ter Ford | (publishers' seal) | New York |  
Henry Holt and Company | 1894

The career of Grover Cleveland fictionized.  
It is said that "The Great K. & A. Train-Robbery" by the same  
author is one of the really good detective stories.

### JOHN FOX, JR.

1862-1919

The Trail of the | Lonesome Pine | by |  
John Fox, Jr. | Illustrated by F. C. Yohn |  
Charles Scribner's Sons | New York (orna-  
ments) 1908

Title enclosed in single line border. Title, author's  
and illustrator's names, publishers' name and date  
enclosed in inner single boxes.

Genteel thriller of Kentucky moon-shine and mountain feud.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### HAROLD FREDERIC

1856-1898

In The Valley | by | Harold Frederic | Illus-  
trated by Howard Pyle | New York |  
Charles Scribner's Sons | 1890

Historical novel with climax centered on the battle of Saratoga.

The | Damnation of Theron Ware | by |  
Harold Frederic | (publishers' seal) | Chi-  
cago | Stone & Kimball | MDCCCXCVI

"Damnation of Theron Ware" and publishers' seal  
in red, balance in black.

Said to be the first of the modern "problem novels."

### ROBERT FROST

1875 —

North of Boston | by | Robert Frost | Au-  
thor of "A Boy's Will" | London | David  
Nutt | 17 Grape Street Editorial: | New  
Oxford Street 6 Bloomsbury Street | W. C.  
[1914]

Small vertical line dividing the seventh and eighth  
lines after the word "street" in each line.

Distributed in America with a slight variation in  
binding but no change of imprint.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

In my desire to mention specific poems, I will cite in this book, "Mending the Wall," "The Death of the Hired Man," and "The Wood Pile."

### HAMLIN GARLAND

1860 —

A Pioneer Mother | by | Hamlin Garland |  
(ornament) | Chicago | The Bookfellows |  
1922

Ornament in red. Twenty-five tall paper copies  
and five hundred small paper copies.

An epic of the conquest of the American west in a tribute by a  
son who appreciates the part played by American motherhood.

Main-Travelled Roads | Six Mississippi Val-  
ley Stories | by | Hamlin Garland | Bos-  
ton, Mass. | Arena Publishing Company |  
1891

Issued in wrappers, title repeated on covers with  
"Arena Library.—Vol. I, No. 2. Price 50 cents."  
across the top and "First Thousand." across the  
bottom.

Short stories of the Middle West before it had Chautauqua circles  
and prosperity; the physical toil endured by the Pioneer ennobled to  
a species of silent heroism.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### EDWARD EVERETT HALE

1822-1909

'he | Man Without a Country. | (publishers' seal) | Boston: | Ticknor and Fields. | 1865.

Issued in wrappers. There is a whisper about a certain small slip of errata or something which should go with the first printing. Nothing has yet been definitely established in regard to a point of issue.

A dramatic sketch of a man who spends his life atoning for a hot-headed moment of his youth.

### JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS

1848-1908

Uncle Remus | His Songs and His Sayings | The Folk-Lore of the Old Plantation | (portrait vignette) | By Joel Chandler Harris | With Illustrations by Frederick S. Church and | James H. Moser | New York | D. Appleton and Company | 1, 3, and 5 Bond Street | 1881

The first issue does not contain a review of the book at the end.

Folk tales of the negro south, retold with sympathetic humor.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### BERT HARTE

1839-1902

The | Luck of Roaring Camp, | And | Other  
Sketches. | by | Francis Bret Harte. | (pub-  
lishers' monogram) | Boston: | Fields, Os-  
good, & Co. | 1870.

Later printings contain an added story, "Brown of Calaveras," listed in the index.

The first stories written by a westerner about the westerners in the western vernacular, the earlier western writers being so afraid of being called "unliterary" that they ignored the crude but powerful material at hand. I feel that Harte's other prose stories are to a great degree feebler successors to this first success.

Poems. | by | Bret Harte. | (publishers' mono-  
gram) | Boston: | Fields, Osgood, & Co. |  
1871.

The first issue has Fields, Osgood monogram on backstrip identical with monogram on title-page.

This volume contains, among others, "Plain Language from Truthful James," "The Society Upon the Stanislaus," "To the Pliocene Skull," and "Her Letter." One or two of these have appeared previously, but here they are together.

# HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

## NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

1804-1864

The | Scarlet Letter, | A Romance. | by |  
Nathaniel Hawthorne. | Boston: | Tick-  
nor, Reed, and Fields. | MDCCCL.

“Scarlet Letter,” in red, balance in black.

“Scarlet Letter” on title measures one eighth inch  
shorter than later issues.

Page 21, line 20, “reduplicate.”

Page 48, line 8, “or the shade.”

Why the first edition should have the publishers’  
advertisements of March 1850, and the second edition  
those of 1849 remains unanswered.

The old story of the girl who loved not wisely but too well, set  
in the stark background of Puritan New England.

Twice-Told Tales. | by | Nathaniel Haw-  
thorne. | (publishers’ seal) | Boston: |  
American Stationers Co. | John B. Rus-  
sell. | 1837.

The sheets of my copy measure seven and three-  
quarter inches tall. Perhaps that is the mark of the  
first edition?

“A Rill from the Town Pump” seems to be the celebrated con-  
tribution to this collection of sketches. Perhaps Hawthorne is  
better remembered for popularizing Greek myths in his “Wonder  
Book.”

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

JOHN HAY

1838-1905

Jim Bludso | Of the Prairie Belle, | and |  
Little Breeches. | by John Hay. | With  
Illustrations by S. Eytinge, Jr. | (publishers' monogram) | Boston: | James R.  
Osgood and Company, | Late Ticknor &  
Fields, and Fields, Osgood, & Co. | 1871.

Title enclosed in single line border.

Hay was secretary to Abraham Lincoln and wrote, with Nicolay, an exhaustive story of the martyr President. But Hay will be remembered in literature chiefly by "Jim Bludso" and "Little Breeches," instinct with native American humor.

LAFCADIO HEARN

1850-1904

Some | Chinese Ghosts. | by | Lafcadio  
Hearn. | (ornament) | Boston: | Roberts  
Brothers. | 1887.

Bindings of several colors.

Here we have Hearn's first study of the legendary orient. Later he wrote many things concerning the traditions of Japan, but nothing superior to these sketches.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Two Years | in the | French West Indies |  
By Lafcadio Hearn | Author of "Chita"  
Etc. | Illustrated | (publishers' seal) | New  
York | Harper & Brothers, Franklin  
Square | 1890

Hearn's best piece of work before leaving these United States for the orient. He combines here with his travelogue, stories equal or superior to the separately printed "Youma" and "Chita."

O. HENRY

[WILLIAM SYDNEY PORTER]

1862-1910

The | Four Million | by | O. Henry | Author  
of | Cabbages and Kings | (publishers'  
seal) | New York | McClure, Phillips &  
Co. | MCMVI

Title enclosed in double line border.

Short stories by the master of the short story. The high spot of the collection is held to be "The Gift of the Magi." Another story termed a masterpiece, "A Municipal Report," is found in the volume, "Strictly Business." But why go on? There are so many great "O. Henry Stories"!

JOSEPH HERGESHEIMER

1880 —

The | Three Black Pennys | A Novel | by |  
Joseph Hergesheimer | New York (pub-

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

lisher's seal) MCMXVII | (rule) | Alfred  
(ornament) A. (ornament) Knopf

25 copies of the first edition were bound altogether uncut.

The first real correlation of the American struggle to success or failure with our huge native resources—the human element combatting the economic. Hergesheimer has also done this in "Glass" and "Steel" which curiously enough have never seen book publication.

The | Presbyterian | Child | (ornament) |  
Joseph Hergesheimer | (ornament) | New  
York | Alfred A. Knopf | 1923

Title enclosed in decorative border designed by Bruce Rogers.

Sketches of the esteemed author's relatives, told with appreciation and almost humor. A lesson in valuing our necessary human surroundings of the blood-is-thicker-than-water variety.

## OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

1809-1894

The Autocrat | of the | Breakfast-Table. |  
Every man his own Boswell. | Boston: |  
Phillips, Sampson and Company. |  
MDCCCLVIII.

"The Autocrat," "Breakfast-Table," publishers' name in red, balance in black.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

The engraved fore-title is not included in later issues.

Happy essays which include the immortal poem, "The One Hoss Shay."

Elsie Venner: | A Romance of Destiny. |  
by Oliver Wendell Holmes, | Author of  
"The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table,"  
etc. | In Two Volumes. | Volume I. [Vol-  
ume II.] | Boston: | Ticknor and Fields. |  
MDCCCLXI.

A novel of pre-natal influence; in which Holmes utilizes his knowl-  
edge as a physician.

## EMERSON HOUGH

1857-1923

The | Covered Wagon | by | Emerson  
Hough | Author of "The Story of the  
Cow- | Boy," "The Magnificent Adven-  
ture," | "The Mississippi Bubble," "The  
Sage- | Brusher," Etc. | (publishers'  
seal) | D. Appleton and Company | New  
York (ornaments) London (ornaments)  
MCMXXII

Figure, 1, in brackets after last line of text.

A novelized narrative of the pioneer movement across the great  
western plains, with all its romance and tragedy. This story has  
reached an incalculable public as one of the truly great motion pic-  
tures.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS

1837-1920

The | Rise of Silas Lapham | by | William  
D. Howells | Author of "A Modern In-  
stance," "A Woman's Reason," Etc. |  
(publishers' seal) | Boston | Ticknor and  
Company | 1885

I note two issues—the publishers' lists before title  
are headed in one case "Mr. Howell's Latest Works"  
and in the other, "Mr. Howell's Latest Novels." The  
latter is probably the first issue, indicated by better  
typography, particularly the last line, p. 176.

By common consent "The Rise of Silas Lapham" is the best of  
the author's numerous novels.

A Boy's Town | Described for "Harper's  
Young People" | by | W. D. Howells |  
Author of "The Shadow of a Dream"  
"April Hopes" | "A Hazard of New For-  
tunes" Etc. | Illustrated | New York |  
Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square |  
1890

The "boy's town" was Hamilton Ohio and "the boy" was young  
Howells. For boy life in America it helps to fill the gap in period  
between Tom Sawyer and Penrod.

# HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

## ELBERT HUBBARD

1859-1915

A Message to | Garcia: Being a | Preach-  
ment by (two ornaments) | Elbert Hub-  
bard (ornament) | (publisher's device) |  
Done into a Booklet by the Roy- | crofters  
at the Roycroft Shop, | which is in East  
Aurora, Erie | County, New York, U. S. A.  
(ornament)

Enclosed in wide ornamental border, which displays the word, "Roycroft." Publisher's device in red, balance in black. Originally printed in the "Philistine" for March 1898, and afterwards circulated as a separate pamphlet. There were several limited editions, the one advertised in the "Philistine" being one thousand signed copies. Hubbard's own methods were so involved and his records so incomplete, that it is difficult to determine the first printing. The New York Central Railroad printed an edition of hundreds of thousands for use in advertising but the books of the Company show that they first bought one hundred copies from Hubbard.

Apotheosis of the man who carries out an order with a maximum of intelligence and directness.

"Respectability" by Hubbard is an entertaining and instructive essay on the rise and abuse of the frilled shirt and other frills.

# HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

## WASHINGTON IRVING

1783-1859

The | Sketch Book | of | Geoffrey Crayon,  
Gent. | (rule) | No. I. | (rule) | (quotation,  
three lines, Burton) | (rule) | New-York: |  
Printed by C. S. Van Winkle, | 101 Green-  
wich-Street. | (row of eleven dots) | 1819.

Issued in wrappers in seven parts with the following points of issue, according to Mr. Edward Turnbull's collation.

No. I. 1819. Wrapper, "No. I . . . Price 75 cents. | (rule) | THE SKETCH BOOK. | (rule) | C. S. Van Winkle, Printer. | 101 Greenwich-street . . . No half-title, and the only half-title in the text is for Rip Van Winkle. Title dated 1819. The quotation on the title ends on the first line with "of" as in Nos. IV to VII. Pp. 1 to 94 inclusive of title. On back of end wrapper is an advertisement that No. II will be published on the 1st. of August next. Below the imprint and above the date on title-page is a row of eleven dots, No. VI has ten dots. Also after No. I on front wrapper are four dots, No. V having five dots.

No. II. Copyright reads 26 July 43'd year; other issues, 26 July 44th. year.

No. III. 1819. Same wrappers as above, back of end wrapper blank. No preliminary half-title, but half-titles for each sketch included in the pagination, as also is the title-page. Quotation on title ends on the first line with "spectator." Pp. 171-242. The copyright reads, 11 Aug. 43d. year, in other issues 11 Aug. 44th. year.

No. IV. 1819. Same wrappers as above, back blank. No half-title, others counted in pagination as also is the title-page. Pp. 243-335 inclusive of title.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

No. V. 1819. Same wrappers as above, back blank. No preliminary half-title, half-titles in text included in pagination as also title-page. Pp. 337-443. After No. V on front wrapper five dots appear.

No. VI. 1820. Brown wrappers as above but differs in the imprint on wrapper which reads: No. VI . . . . Price 87½ cents | (rule) | THE SKETCH BOOK. | (rule) | Published by Haly and Thomas, New-York, | and M. Thomas, Philadelphia. The title-page reads as in previous parts, New-York | Printed by C. S. Van Winkle, | No. 101 Greenwich-street (ten dots) 1820. Advertisement on the back mentions "Giovanni Sbogarro" by Percival Gordon and Knickerbocker's History of New York. No preliminary half-title, others included in the pagination. Pp. 1-120. The following changes appear in the later issues of No. VI: P. 33, last line —; is changed to — P. 51, ninth line—begins further to the right. P. 65 sig. 9 further to the right. There are a few other similar small changes.

No. VII. 1820. Same wrappers and inside title as in No. VI. No preliminary half-title, others included in the pagination. The back cover advertises Knickerbocker's History of New York and states that Ebenezer Irving as the author's agent has purchased the remainder and that copies can be obtained from him. Pp. 1-123 inclusive of title.

Part one contains the immortal "Rip Van Winkle," part six the "Legend of Sleepy Hollow," and part five those sketches known as "Old Christmas."

Irving's "Knickerbocker's History of New York" with its combination of fact and humor is an interesting book, but belongs in another collection of different import.

## HELEN HUNT JACKSON

1831-1885

Ramona. | A Story. | By Helen Jackson |  
(H. H.), | Author of "Verses," "Bits of

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Travel," "Bits of Travel at Home," |  
"Bits of Talk About Home Matters,"  
Etc. | (ornament) | Boston: | Roberts  
Brothers. | 1884.

A view of the Indian as a human being; the tragedy of his subjugation and ousting by the white race—told in the form of a romantic novel.

## HENRY JAMES

1843-1916

Daisy Miller | a Study | by Henry James, Jr. |  
(rule) | New York | Harper & Brothers,  
Publishers | Franklin Square | 1879

Issued in wrappers, also in cloth, in the Harper's Half-Hour Series.

The Golden Bowl | by | Henry James | Vol-  
ume I [Volume II] | New York | Charles  
Scribner's Sons | 1904

Henry James is to me one of the great mysteries of Literature. His involved style pleases many greatly and displeases many more. And his admirers differ as widely as do Conrad's as to the high spots of his writings. One says he wrote nothing of importance before he went to live in England, another claims that he wrote nothing of significance after he went abroad. The two titles listed above are representative of the two periods.

HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

THOMAS A. JANVIER

1849-1913

The | Aztec Treasure-House | A Romance |  
of | Contemporaneous Antiquity | by |  
Thomas A. Janvier | Illustrated | (pub-  
lishers' seal) | New York | Harper & Broth-  
ers, Franklin Square | 1890

Ingenious adventure story with a background of picturesque  
American history.

MARY JOHNSTON

1870 —

To Have and | To Hold | by | Mary John-  
ston | Author of "Prisoners of Hope" |  
With Illustrations by Howard Pyle, E. B.  
Thompson, | A. W. Betts, and Emlen  
McConnell | (publishers' seal) | Boston  
and New York | Houghton, Mifflin and  
Company | The Riverside Press, Cam-  
bridge | 1900

Title enclosed in double line border. 250 copies  
with paper label, untrimmed.

Historical novel interwoven with the celebrated shipment of wives  
for the English colonists.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### JOYCE KILMER

1886-1918

Trees | and | Other Poems | by | Joyce Kilmer | (ornament) | New York | George H: Doran Company [1914]

Title enclosed in straight line borders.

The first issue is in mouse colored boards with gilt top and does not have "Printed in the United States" on verso of title-page.

The title poem, "Trees," is the thing.

### CHARLES GODFREY LELAND

1824-1903

Hans Breitmann's | Party. | (rule) | With  
Other Ballads. | (rule) | Philadelphia: |  
T. B. Peterson & Brothers; | 306 Chest-  
nut Street.

Issued in wrappers. The first issue has "Ringwalt & Brown, Prs." in small type on the outside front wrapper.

Humorous poems in German-American dialect. The title poem and "Ballad" are the best known.

It may be mentioned, incidentally, that the Breitmann ballads have recently been reprinted in a splendid limited edition, and that the great Kipling honored Leland with his "Two Breitmann Ballads."

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### ALFRED HENRY LEWIS

1857-1914

Wolfville | by | Alfred Henry Lewis | (Dan Quin) | Illustrated by | Frederic Remington | (portrait head) | New York | Frederick A. Stokes Company | Publishers [1897]

Dialect stories of Arizona in the Indian-Badman-Cowboy days.

### SINCLAIR LEWIS

1885 —

Main Street | The Story of Carol Kennicott |  
by | Sinclair Lewis | (publishers' seal) |  
New York | Harcourt, Brace and Howe |  
1920

Many printings before publication. Issued in light, medium, and dark blue cloths. The file copy at the publishers is in dark blue; I remember seeing an inscribed copy the first week of publication in medium blue—no doubt inspection of the typography will eventually clear this up.

A satire on the cultural efforts of the small town. The term, "Main Street" has passed into the language as meaning "of a small town."

Babbitt | by | Sinclair Lewis | Author of  
"Main Street" | (publishers' seal) | New

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

York | Harcourt, Brace and Company  
[1922]

Again a satire, directed at the spiritual lacks of the average business man.

"Arrowsmith" is another of the satire series, directed at certain types of doctors. "Elmer Gantry" is on the hypocritical Evangelist.

## JACK LONDON

1874-1916

The Call | of the Wild | by | Jack London |  
(portrait head of dog) | New York | The  
Macmillan Company | London: Macmillan  
& Co., Ltd. | 1903 | All rights reserved

Title enclosed in double line border. Top panel contains "Illustrated by Philip R. Goodwin and Charles Livingston Bull." Bottom panel contains "Decorated by Chas. Edw. Hooper." Decorative background of title-page shows glacier scene. Borders, panels, and background in blue grey, balance in black.

A dog story in the Alaskan setting. In the "Call of the Wild" the dog goes back to the wolf; and in "White Fang," a later story, the wolf is tamed to the dog.

Before Adam | by | Jack London | Author  
of | "Call of the Wild," "The Sea | Wolf,"  
"People of the Abyss," | "White Fang,"

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Etc., Etc. | With Numerous Illustrations  
By | Charles Livingston Bull | New York |  
The Macmillan Company | London: Mac-  
millan & Co., Ltd. | 1907 | All rights re-  
served

The life of prehistoric man so fascinates me that I am compelled  
to include this book.

John | Barleycorn | by | Jack London | Au-  
thor of "The Call of the Wild," "The |  
Abysmal Brute," "Smoke Bellew," | "The  
Night-Born," etc. | Illustrated by | H. T.  
Dunn | (publishers' seal) | New York |  
The Century Co. | 1913

This is London's autobiography—needless to say he lived the  
old scenes depicted in his books. But what makes this book im-  
portant is the story of alcohol seen by a keen observer, and his per-  
sonal struggle with that moot question of today and other days.

## HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

1807-1882

Evangeline, | a | Tale of Acadie. | by | Henry  
Wadsworth Longfellow | (rule) | Boston: |  
William D. Ticknor & Company. | 1847.

Tradition has it that in the first edition of this work  
"Long," first word p. 61, was printed "Lo" and that

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

the missing letters were supplied in later editions. Newer theories have arisen that the letters fell out (the book being printed from type) *after* the first printing and the correction to the original was made later. Also there is a controversy over the glazed or unglazed board in the binding.

An epic poem based on the forced evacuation of Acadia.

The | Song of Hiawatha. | by | Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. | Boston: | Ticknor and Fields. | MDCCCLV.

The first issue has the word "dove," line 7, p. 96 which was changed to "dived" in later issues.

Another epic poem, in this case of Indian life and legends. "The Tales of a Wayside Inn" contains "The Children's Hour" and "Paul Revere's Ride." The book entitled "Ballads" has our old friend, "The Village Blacksmith." Other well known poems are "The Hanging of the Crane" and "The Psalm of Life."

## AMY LOWELL

1874-1925

Men, Women | and | Ghosts | by | Amy  
Lowell | Author of | "A Dome of Many-  
Coloured Glass" | "Sword Blades and  
Poppy Seed" | "Six French Poets" | New  
York | The Macmillan Company | 1916 |  
All Rights Reserved

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

"Patterns" included in the above is the poem supposed to give the best clue to Miss Lowell's peculiar genius. The method is "free" verse and the content is aimed at what makes the late nineteenth century New England character tick.

A longer poem, "East Wind," comprising an entire volume, is said to be a supreme instance of "sardonic humor."

("Patterns" was previously included in an anthology, but I prefer to present it in its proper setting.)

### JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

1819-1891

The | Biglow Papers, | Edited, | With an Introduction, Notes, Glossary, | And Copious Index, | by | Homer Wilbur, A.M., | Pastor of the First Church in Jaalam, And (Prospective) Member of | Many Literary, Learned and Scientific Societies, | (for which see page v.) | (quotation two lines, Quarle's Emblems) | (quotation one line, Jac. Car. etc.,)| Cambridge: | Published by George Nichols. | 1848.

Title-page follows 12 pages of "press notices" and half-title. At the top of the title-page, set off by a rule, is the cryptic "Melibœus-Hipponax." A special edition of some dozen copies "for presentation" is said not to be the original issue. There is small doubt, however, that some of the first copies were bound in boards with a paper label.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Politico-humor in the Yankee dialect of the time. It might be considered necessary to include the Biglow Papers, Second Series, at the time of the Civil War. This latter volume contains among other things, that well known poem "The Courtin'."

### WILLIAM McFEE

1881 —

Casuals | of the Sea | The Voyage of a Soul |  
by William McFee (two ornaments) |  
(double rule) | (double rule) | London:  
Martin Secker | Number Five John Street  
Adelphi MCMXVI

The first American Edition was printed in England  
with Doubleday Page imprint.

A sea story only in that some of those who people its pages are  
seafarers and spend some of their time at sea.

### EDWIN MARKHAM

1852 —

The Man (ornaments) | With the Hoe (orna-  
ment) | Written after seeing Millet's |  
World-Famous Painting (dotted line) |  
(ornaments) by Edwin Markham | Origi-  
nally published in "The San | Francisco  
Examiner" (ornament) January the | fif-

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

teenth (ornaments) Eighteen hundred and |  
ninety-nine. (ornaments) Now first issued  
in | book form, March thirtieth, Eighteen |  
hundred and ninety-nine. (ornaments) |  
San Francisco, California (ornament) Pub-  
lished | by A. M. Robertson. (ornaments)

Title enclosed in double line border. Double panel  
lines under "With the Hoe," "Edwin Markham," and  
"by A. M. Robertson." Double panel lines over  
"Originally published in 'The San.' "

Ornaments in first, second and fifth lines and deco-  
rative panel below publisher's name are in red, blance  
in black.

Single poem printed in pamphlet form, inspired by the famous  
Millet painting. The most quoted line is: "Whose was the hand  
that slanted back this brow?"

## EDGAR LEE MASTERS

1869 —

Spoon River | Anthology | by | Edgar Lee  
Masters | New York | The Macmillan Com-  
pany | 1915 | All Rights Reserved

Free verse characterizations of small town people, disguised as  
epitaphs. Written with understanding and sympathy in the Wil-  
liam Allen White manner as contrasted to the Sinclair Lewis attitude  
of disdain.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### HERMAN MELVILLE

1819-1891

Moby-Dick; | or, | The Whale. | by | Herman Melville, | Author of | "Typee," "Omoo," "Redburn," "Mardi," "White-Jacket." | (waved rule) | New York: | Harper & Brothers, Publishers. | London: Richard Bentley. | 1851.

Some claim the London edition as first issue: I cannot confirm this.

Tale of the sea written in the early nineteenth century, hailed from semi-obscurity in the twentieth century and acclaimed a masterpiece. The mystic quality of the pursuit differentiates this from the conventional adventure story.

### EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY

1892 —

Renascence | and | other Poems | by | Edna St. Vincent Millay | (publisher's seal) | New York | Mitchell Kennerley | MCMXVII

Of the first edition, seventeen copies were printed on vellum, the balance on Glaslan watermark'd paper.

Renascence, one of the prize winning poems in the "Lyric Year," 1912, still stands as a literary achievement.

"Lyric Year" is an anthology, so I prefer to present Renascence as described above, in its proper setting with other of Miss Millay's work, including the notable sonnet, "Bluebeard."

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

DONALD G. MITCHELL

"IK. MARVEL"

1822-1908

Reveries | of | A Bachelor: | or | A Book of  
the Heart. | By Ik. Marvel, | Author of  
Fresh Gleanings. | (rule) | (quotation, three  
lines, Burton's Anatomy.) | (rule) | New  
York: | Baker & Scribner. | 1850.

There seem to be two editions in this year, and the one slightly taller, the leaf measuring nearly  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches tall, seems to have fewer type defects. It comes in blue, green, or dark red cloth.

Why worry about bachelors? But many people do—and here's the most celebrated attempt to put down what one of them thinks.

JOAQUIN MILLER

1841-1913

Songs of the Sierras | by | Joaquin Miller. |  
(ornament) | Boston: | Roberts Brothers. |  
1871.

Title-page of the American issue, though the English edition probably preceded it.

First Fam'lies | of the | Sierras. | (rule) | By  
Joaquin Miller, | Author of "Songs of the

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Sierras," "Songs of the Sun-Lands," |  
"The Ship in the Desert," Etc. | (rule) |  
Chicago: | Jansen, McClurg & Co. | 1876.

Poet laureate of the great wooded spaces of the West. A bit cruder than Bret Harte, but yet giving breezy and vivid pictures of the pioneer epoch. The "First Fam'lies" is a prose effort, different enough from Bret Harte's stories to be included here.

S. WEIR MITCHELL, M.D.

1843-1913

Hugh Wynne| Free Quaker | Sometime Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel on | The Staff of his Excellency | General Washington | by | S. Weir Mitchell, M.D. | LL.D. Harvard and Edinburgh | Vol. I [Vol. II] | (publishers' seal) | New York | The Century Co. | 1897

60 copies on large paper for presentation by the author.

Illustrations in separate portfolio.

A story of the Revolution, our hero a young officer under Washington.

"The Adventures of Francois" by Mitchell is the story of a lovable rogue at the time of the French Revolution, and succeeds without a heroine!

CLEMENT C. MOORE

1779-1863

Poems | by | Clement C. Moore, LL.D. | (rule) | (quotation, one line, Hor.) | (rule) |

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

New York: | Bartlett & Welford, | 7 Astor  
House | (rule) | 1844.

Containing "A visit from St. Nicholas" better recalled by the  
first line, "'Twas the night before Christmas."

### FRANK NORRIS

1870-1902

McTeague | A Story of San Francisco | by  
Frank Norris | Author of "Moran of the  
Lady Letty" | (ornament) | New York |  
Doubleday & McClure Co. | 1899

Title enclosed in single line border. Single panel  
line under "Author of 'Moran of the Lady Letty'"  
and over "New York." The last word on page 106  
is "moment."

A novel with character studies of everyday people who end in a  
tragedy of money-madness.

The Epic of the Wheat | The Pit | A Story  
of Chicago | by | Frank Norris | (pub-  
lishers' seal) | New York | Doubleday,  
Page & Co. | 1903

Special publishers' presentation edition in grey  
boards with paper label.

One of a projected trilogy, the last of which was never written.  
"The Octopus" was first, showing the drama of the production of

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

wheat, including the war between the grower and the railroad. "The Pit" gives the distribution and speculation in wheat, and "The Wolf," to be the last of the series, was not written due to the writer's premature death.

### THOMAS NELSON PAGE

1853-1922

In Ole Virginia | or | Marse Chan and Other Stories | by | Thomas Nelson Page | New York | Charles Scribner's Sons | 1887

Stories of the "Old Dominion," before and during the Civil War. This book is not so noted in literary circles as his "Red Rock," a novel which might be a historical document on the problems of reconstruction.

### DAVID GRAHAM PHILLIPS

1867-1911

David Graham Phillips | (rule) | Susan Lenox | Her Fall and Rise | Volume I [Volume II] | (publishers' seal) | With a Portrait | of the Author | D. Appleton and Company | New York London | 1917

(1) after last line of text.

The life story of the love-child who goes through the depths finally to become a great actress. Phillips states in his preface that the novel is his conception of the common-sense way to write of the problems of sex.

Other titles of Phillips's work which seem powerful are "Old Wives for New," "A Grain of Dust," and "The Fashionable Adventures of Joshua Craig."

# HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

EDGAR A. POE

1809-1849

Tales | by | Edgar A. Poe. | New York: |  
Wiley and Putnam, 161 Broadway. |  
(rule) | 1845.

There is no need to introduce the "Gold Bug," "The Fall of the House of Usher," and "The Murders in the Rue Morgue." It has been urged that the collection include "Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque," 2 volumes, Philadelphia, 1840, on account of the celebrated "Pit and the Pendulum"; but the book named above includes by long odds more better-known stories, and if the gruesome is desired need one go farther than those mentioned above.

The Raven and Other Poems. | by | Edgar A.  
Poe. | (waved rule) | New York and Lon-  
don. | Wiley and Putnam, 161 Broadway 6  
Waterloo Place. | Price, Thirty-one Cents.

Title enclosed in double line border, inner border with curved corners. Above "The Raven and Other Poems" there is as follows: (quotation, four lines, Address of the American Copy-right Club) | (waved rule) | Wiley and Putnam's | Library of American Books. | (waved rule | No. VIII. | (waved rule).

Issued in cloth and wrappers. Some copies have stereotypers' imprint on verso of title-page, but I cannot state if this is a point of issue.

Around the curious figure of the raven, Poe has woven man's questioning of the eternal mystery of death with its attendant sorrow to the living.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### HOWARD PYLE

1853-1911

Men of Iron | by | Howard Pyle | Author of |  
“The Wonder Clock” “Pepper and Salt” |  
“The Rose of Paradise” etc. | Illustrated |  
(publishers’ seal) | New York | Harper &  
Brothers, Franklin Square | 1892

Apparently there are two different editions on two different thicknesses of paper but which is first is as yet undetermined. There is a probability that the thin paper edition measuring one and one sixteenth inches across the top is the first issue in view of contemporary inscriptions preceding the date on title-page.

Written as a book for boys, it is an absorbing story of the training of a young lad, son of an attainted noble, through youth and young manhood with the sole object of removing the taint in trial by combat.

### FREDERIC REMINGTON

1861-1909

The Way of an Indian | Written and Illus-  
trated | by | Frederic Remington | Author  
of | “Men With the Bark on,” | “Crooked  
Trails,” &c. | (publishers’ seal) | New York  
| Fox Duffield & Company | 1906

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Red cloth, yellow stamping, Fox Duffield & Co. at foot of back-strip.

Perhaps the only successful attempt to give the psychology of the western Indian in his war and love-life. Illustrated by the author.

### JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

1849-1916

“The | Old Swimmin’-Hole,” | and | ‘Leven More Poems, | by | Benj. F. Johnson, of Boone. | (rule) | [James Whitcomb Riley.] | (rule) | Indianapolis, Ind.: | George C. Hitt & Co. | 1883.

Title entirely in red. Issued in wrappers.

Poetry of the people at its best. Of course, the locale is Indiana, and the subjects are mostly reminiscent of childhood.

### CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS

1860 —

The Watchers | of. the. Trails | A. Book. of. Animal. Life. By | Charles. G. D. Roberts | Author of | “The Kindred of the Wild,” “The Heart of | the Ancient Wood,” “Barbara Ladd,” “The | Forge in the | Forest,” | “Poems,” | etc. | (vignette drawing of moose head with “With Many |

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Illustrations | by | " on right of vignette  
and "Charles | Livingston | Bull | " on  
left of vignette) | L. C. Page & Company |  
MDCCCCIV. . . Boston

Title enclosed in heavy line border.

Title, author's name and publishers' name in red,  
balance in black. "Published June, 1904" appears on  
verso of title-page.

The author is a Canadian but his works were mostly published in  
the United States; he, himself, has spent many years here, and the  
scenes and animals described are common to the northern states  
of the Union.

I can mention no particular one of this collection of short stories  
as being superior to any in "The Kindred of the Wild" or "Hauntings  
of the Silence," but chose the title as characteristic of Major Robertson's  
best work. In my opinion his short sketches of animal life take the  
reader nearer the heart of the wood than any other writer.

## MORGAN ROBERTSON

1861-1914

"Where Angels Fear to | Tread" (ornaments)  
and Other | Tales of the Sea (ornaments) |  
By Morgan Robertson | (publishers' seal) |  
Published by the Century Co. | New York  
(ornaments) MDCCCXCIX

Robertson is not to be characterized as an American Conrad.  
He is a master of sea lore and the short story form in his own right.

This collection of stories contains "Salvage" and "Primordial,"  
among others of special merit.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### CARL SANDBURG

1878 —

Smoke and Steel | by | Carl Sandburg |  
Author of "Chicago Poems," | "Corn-  
huskers" | (publishers' seal) | New York |  
Harcourt, Brace and Company | [1920]

Next the ground poetry, without rhyme, but with rhythm and interest.

Similar collections are "Chicago Poems" and "Cornhuskers." Sandburg is also known through his prose "Lincoln" and the "Rootabaga Stories."

### ALAN SEEGER

1888-1916

Poems | by | Alan Seeger | With an Introduction | by | William Archer | New York | Charles Scribner's Sons | MCMXVI

Contains the famous poem, "I Have A Rendezvous With Death."

### ERNEST THOMPSON SETON

"ERNEST SETON THOMPSON"

1860 —

Wild. Animals. . I. . . Have. Known |. and.  
200. Drawings. | by | Ernest (ornament)

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Seton (ornament) Thompson | Naturalist.  
to. the. Govern | ment. of. Manitoba...  
Author. of. | 'Birds. of. Manitoba' (three  
ornaments) | 'Mammals. of. Manitoba,'  
(ornament); | Art. Anatomy. of. Animals.  
| Being the Personal Histories of | Lobo |  
Silverspot | Raggylug | Bingo | The Spring-  
field Fox | the Pacing Mustang | Wully |  
and Redruff | (animal head) | (rule) | Pub-  
lished. by. Charles. Scribner's. Sons. New.  
York. City. A. D. 1898.

Hand lettered title-page with sketch in upper left  
of seated figure of man surrounded by various animals  
and birds.

"And 200 Drawings," "Ernest Seton Thompson" and initials of "Personal," "Lobo," "Silverspot," "Raggylug," "Bingo," "The" (Springfield Fox), "The" (Pacing Mustang), "Wully," "Redruff," and "Charles Scribner's Sons" in red; balance in black.

Later editions carry the added words, last para-  
graph, p. 265, "And the Angel said 'Don't go!'"

Seton is one of our adopted Canadians. The above book made and sustains his fame, but his "Trail of the Sandhill Stag" is the first great plea for the suppression of the killer instinct and the conservation of animal life. "The Natural History of the Ten Com-  
mandments" is more a scientific treatise than a piece of literature, yet is one of the most illuminating short essays I have read.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### UPTON SINCLAIR

1878 —

The Jungle | by | Upton Sinclair | The Jungle Publishing Co. | Box 2064, New York [1906]

"The Jungle" was first issued in a "sustainers' edition," presumably delivered to subscribers, with the imprint, "Jungle Publishing Co.," on cover and title-page. These copies measure  $1\frac{7}{16}$  inches across the top with covers. Later editions are on thinner paper including those with the Doubleday, Page and Co. imprint on the title-page and back-strip.

"The Jungle" is the story of the stock-yard district of Chicago. What would be called today (1928) "realism" was known in 1906 as "muck-raking." The book caused a national stir, and it is still read as a powerful picture of human tragedy under bad industrial conditions.

"The Brass Check" is an attempt to expose alleged capitalistic manipulation of the Press, and "Oil" is the story not so much of the physical product as the "financial" gambles attendant thereon. Neither book seems to capture popular attention as did "The Jungle."

### F. HOPKINSON SMITH

1838-1915

Colonel Carter | of Cartersville | By F Hopkinson Smith | With Illustrations | By E W Kemble And | The Author | publishers' seal) | Boston and New York |

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The  
Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1891

First two lines in red.

Portrait of a “decayed” southern gentleman of most lovable character.

FRANK R. STOCKTON

1834-1902

The Lady, or the Tiger? | and | Other Stories |  
by | Frank R. Stockton | New York | Charles  
Scribner's Sons | 1884

Issued both in cloth and wrappers.

“The Lady or the Tiger?” is the title story in a collection of twelve.  
The unsolved human dilemma therein described is classic in its drama.

The Casting Away of | Mrs. Lecks and Mrs.  
Aleshine | by | Frank R. Stockton | New-  
York | The Century Co. [1886]

Issued both in cloth and wrappers.

The Dusantes | A Sequel To “The Casting  
Away of Mrs. Lecks | And Mrs. Aleshine” |  
by | Frank R. Stockton | New-York | The  
Century Co. [1888]

Issued both in cloth and wrappers.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

The dry "Stocktonian" humor is at its best in this epic of ship-wreck in the south seas. The Dusantes, while issued separately, is properly a sequel to "The Casting Away," etc.

### HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

1811-1896

Uncle Tom's Cabin; | or, | Life Among the  
Lowly. | by | Harriet Beecher Stowe. |  
(vignette) | Vol. I [Vol. II] | Boston: | John  
P. Jewett & Company. | Cleveland, Ohio: |  
Jewett, Proctor & Worthington. | 1852.

Issued both in cloth and wrappers. The first binding has an oval design stamp. There are some copies in cloth with extra gilt design on covers said to have been especially bound for presentation, only a surmise. Later issues state the number of thousands on the title-page.

Some collectors accompany these volumes with a separate "Key."

Mrs. Stowe was a prolific writer but nothing seems to have survived but this story of negro slave life which had such an amazing influence in crystallizing the issues leading to the Civil War.

"Dred, a Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp" is a story of an escaped slave which was published four years later and undoubtedly added impetus to the anti-slavery movement.

These books are of such paramount historical importance that it is difficult to evaluate them as literature.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### BOOTH TARKINGTON

1869 —

The Gentleman | from Indiana | by | Booth  
Tarkington | (ornament) | New York |  
Doubleday & McClure Co. | 1899

Page 245, line 16 "so pretty" later corrected to  
"her heart."

Other corrections follow this. Probably first issued  
in ribbed cloth, as most copies of the later edition ap-  
pear in the mesh cloth binding.

Politics and love in a growing mid-west town of the pre-Babbitt  
era when moonlight still created glamour.

Monsieur | Beaucaire | by | Booth | Tarking-  
ton | Illustrated by C. D. Williams | New  
York | McClure, Phillips & Co. | 1900

Title incorporated in decorative title-page.

The printers' colophon on page after text measures  
one-half inch.

An achievement in short story technique.

Penrod | By Booth | Tarkington | (illustration  
of boy and dog) | Illustrated by | Gordon  
Grant | Garden City New York | Double-  
day, Page & Company | 1914

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Hand lettered title-page. First issued in mesh-cloth, measuring one and one quarter inches across the top covers.

Tom Sawyer and his pals as they would have been thirty years later.

Seventeen | A Tale of Youth and | Summer  
Time and | The Baxter Family | Especially  
William | by | Booth Tarkington | Illus-  
trated | (publishers' seal) | Harper & Broth-  
ers Publishers | New York and London  
[1916]

B-Q at foot of copyright page.

Puppy love at the age indicated by the title, told with insight and humor, and accompanied by all the scenery of parents, chums and ice-cream sodas in the pre-war small town of the midwest.

## HENRY D. THOREAU

1817-1862

Walden; | or, | Life in the Woods. | By Henry  
D. Thoreau, | Author of "A Week On  
The Concord and Merrimack Rivers." |  
(vignette) | (quotation, two lines, page  
92-) | Boston: | Ticknor and Fields. |  
MDCCCLIV.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

The first issue is supposed to have April advertisements at the end. A copy has been noted with March advertisements and many copies with May advertisements. Whether or not these represent separate printings has not yet been settled.

This book is listed as being published in September. How come, then, the April ads. in some copies, March ads. seen in one copy, and other ads. ranging to October? Did the publishers run out of ads. of the current month and put in earlier ones from stock, or vice versa?

A cry for simplicity. Two years in a cabin on Walden Pond did not offer the moving targets of his river trip, but they did emphasize to Thoreau the futility of much feverish human activity.

A Week | on the | Concord and Merrimack  
Rivers. | (rule) | by | Henry D. Thoreau. |  
(rule) | Boston and Cambridge: | James  
Munroe and Company. | New York: George  
P. Putnam. Philadelphia: Lindsay | And  
Blackiston. London: John Chapman. |  
1849.

Three lines on page 396 dropped by printer.

This seven day boat voyage on peaceful New England waters could not have been highly adventurous—provisions of potatoes and melons, nothing but water to drink. Thoreau uses it as a background of nature study, human study, reflections on history, and philosophic observations, all blended together with charm and even power.

HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

HENRY VAN DYKE

1852 —

(ornament) The First | Christmas- | Tree  
(ornaments) | by (ornament) Henry | Van  
Dyke | (ornament) Illustra- | Ted by  
How- | Ard Pyle (ornament) | Charles  
Scribner's Sons | New York (ornament)  
MDCCCXCVII

Title incorporated in decorative design. Lettering  
in red with exception of publishers' name and "New  
York," balance in black.

A stirring story of the early Christian struggle against the pagan  
practice of human sacrifice in ancient Germany.

The Ruling Passion | Tales of Nature and |  
Human Nature | by | Henry Van Dyke |  
With Illustrations | by W. Appleton Clark |  
(ornament) | New York | Charles Scrib-  
ner's Sons | MDCCCCI

First, fifth, and eighth lines in red, balance in black.  
Limited to 500 numbered copies signed by the au-  
thor.

Short stories of French-Canada, led by "A Lover of Music" and  
closing with "The Keeper of the Light."

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### HENDRIK VAN LOON

1882 —

The Story of | Mankind | by | Hendrik Van  
Loon | Boni and Liveright | 1921

Title enclosed in pictorial border of symbolic intent.

World history treated as the comprehensive view of the upward struggle of man, not merely the lists of leaders and dates of events. It is inevitable to compare this work with the parallel study by H. G. Wells, but I consider that Mr. Van Loon has given his work an individual merit.

### LEW. WALLACE

1827-1905

Ben-Hur | A Tale of the Christ | by | Lew.  
Wallace | Author of "The Fair God" |  
(quotation, two lines, Count de Gabalis) |  
New York | Harper & Brothers, Franklin  
Square | 1880

The first binding is light blue with flower design.  
The short dedication "To The Wife of My Youth," commonly supposed to designate the first issue appears also in some later issues.

The subtitle, "A Tale of the Christ," would read more correctly A Tale of Early Christians. "Ben-Hur" still reaches its hundreds of thousands from stage, screen, and printed page.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

The Fair God; | or, | The Last of the 'Tzins. |  
A Tale of the Conquest of Mexico. | by |  
Lew. Wallace. | (quotation, four lines) |  
(publishers' monogram) | Boston: | James  
R. Osgood and Company, | Late Ticknor  
& Fields, and Fields, Osgood, & Co. | 1873.

Overshadowed by "Ben-Hur" but nevertheless a mighty absorbing yarn of an interesting period on our continent.

### EDWARD NOYES WESTCOTT

1847-1898

David Harum | A Story of American Life |  
by | Edward Noyes Westcott | (publishers'  
seal) | New York | D. Appleton and Com-  
pany | 1898

Wit and wisdom of the kindly horse trader in a midwest town.

### EDITH WHARTON

1862 —

Ethan Frome | by | Edith Wharton | New  
York | Charles Scribner's Sons | MCMXI

Second, fourth, and sixth lines in black, balance in  
red.

In the first issue the word, "wearily," last line,  
page 135 is perfect, but is broken in later issues. This

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

word is unbroken in copies both with and without the gilt top and I can state no established preference on that point.

The eternal triangle in frustration with a background of New England character and climate.

### STEWART EDWARD WHITE 1873 —

Gold | by | Stewart | Edward | White | Illus-  
trated by | Thomas Fogarty | Garden  
City, New York | Doubleday, Page & Co. |  
1913

Title incorporated in full page pictorial design, en-  
closed in single line border.

The | Gray Dawn | by | Stewart | Edward |  
White | Illustrated by | Thomas Fogarty |  
Garden City, New York | Doubleday Page  
& Co | [1915]

Title incorporated in full page pictorial design.

The first issue is in dark grey cloth. Later issues  
in lighter cloth are distinguished by imperfect typog-  
raphy particularly noticeable on page 77.

The | Rose Dawn | by | Stewart Edward  
White | (publishers' seal) | Garden City

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

New York | Doubleday, Page & Company | 1920

Title enclosed in single line borders. Publishers' seal and inner line border in red, balance in black.

These three books combine to form a "California Trilogy."

"Gold" is concerned with the 1849 era, naturally; "The Gray Dawn" carries on through the struggle to control the excesses and lawlessness of the gold period, in a word, the story of the vigilantes.

"The Rose Dawn" represents the final phase, the widespread agricultural development of the state. The characters of these novels are not related.

"The Blazed Trail," regarded as one of White's outstanding books, is a tale of the timber-cruisers of the northwest.

## WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE

1868 —

The Court of | Boyville | by | William Allen  
White | Author of the Real Issue, Etc. |  
(publishers' seal) | New York | Doubleday  
& McClure Co. | 1899

A copy has been observed uncut, but that is probably a "freak."

A collection of short stories of boy and girl life in the small town (Emporia, Kansas) with a cast of characters including "Piggy Pennington" and his "Heart's Desire." Unfortunately what should be the initial sketch is in another book of White's sketches, "The Real Issue."

In Our Town | by | William Allen White |  
(publishers' seal) | Illustrations by F. R.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Gruger and W. Glackens | (rule) | New York | McClure, Phillips & Co. | MCMVI

“Our Town” is, of course, Emporia, Kansas again. The book recites the current of life which streams by and through the small town newspaper office, the stories they print, and the stories they cannot print.

### WALT WHITMAN

1819-1892

Leaves | of | Grass | (rule) | Brooklyn, New York: | 1855.

The printing of “Leaves of Grass” was by no great publishing house with methods, records, etc. Copies were distributed a few at a time, some with paper wrappers, some bound in cloth. Of the cloth copies, some have certain gilt lines and others do not. It is surmised only that the absence of the gilt meant a saving in cost of those bound up later. Still other copies have advertisements claimed to make them later issues. Care must be taken to observe if these advertisements have been removed in copies purporting to be first.

Introductory poem (later “Songs of Myself”) in this volume of “free verse” is said to contain the main elements of Whitman philosophy.

### JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

1807-1892

Snow-Bound. | A Winter Idyl. | by | John Greenleaf Whittier. | (vignette illustration)

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

tion) | Boston: | Ticknor and Fields. | 1866.

The last page of the text is numbered at the foot, 52, in the first issue. There were also a few copies specially bound for presentation.

An epic in small. Portraits in stately verse of a New England family group about the farm fireside of a winter's evening.

Other celebrated Whittier poems are "Skipper Ireson's Ride," "The Barefoot Boy," and "Maud Muller," contained in "Home Ballads," "The Panorama," and "In War Time," respectively.

## HARRY LEON WILSON

1867 —

Bunker Bean | by | Harry Leon Wilson | Author of | "The Spenders," "The Lions of the Lord," | "The Boss of Little Arcady," Etc. | (publishers' seal) | Illustrated by F. R. Gruger | Garden City New York | Doubleday, Page & Company | 1913

The story of the young man who pulled himself up in life and love—by his bootstraps.

"Ruggles of Red Gap" is another amusing book by the same author with its unforgettable "You can push me just so far."

## WOODROW WILSON

1856-1924

When a Man | Comes to Himself | Woodrow Wilson | Ph.D., Litt.D., LL.D. | President

HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

of the United States | (publishers' seal) |  
Harper & Brothers | New York and Lon-  
don | M.C.M.X.V

B.P. at foot of copyright page.

A short essay written with power and beauty of language.  
"On Being Human" New York, 1916, is properly a companion  
essay.

OWEN WISTER

1860 —

The Virginian | A Horseman of the Plains |  
by | Owen Wister | Author of "Red Men  
and White," "Lin McLean" | "U. S. Grant:  
a Biography," Etc., Etc. | With Illustra-  
tions by Arthur I. Keller | New York | The  
Macmillan Company | London: Macmillan  
& Co., Ltd. | 1902 | All rights reserved

A novel of the human problems in the cowboy west with the cow-  
puncher from Virginia in conflict with the moral standards of the  
young school-marm from Vermont.



## *PART II*

By the arbitrary division of the collection into first and second groups I intend nothing of finality. All literary permanence is debatable, so perhaps there is a feeling in my mind that the titles in this group are a bit *more* debatable than those of the first group. No doubt time will move some of these hesitant choices proudly up to the top of the list: others will disappear entirely.



## GERTRUDE ATHERTON

1857 —

The Conqueror | Being the True and Romantic | Story of | Alexander Hamilton | by | Gertrude Franklin Atherton | (quotation, four lines from Talleyrand, *Etudes sur la Republique*) | New York | The Macmillan Company | London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. | 1902 | All rights reserved

The life of Alexander Hamilton, fictionized.

## RAY STANNARD BAKER

“DAVID GRAYSON”

1870 —

Adventures | In Contentment | by | David Grayson | Illustrated by | Thomas Fogarty | (vignette) | New York | Doubleday, Page & Company | 1907

Widely read essays of the simple life.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

JOHN KENDRICK BANGS

1862-1922

The Water Ghost | and Others | by | John Kendrick Bangs | Author of "Coffee and Repartee" | Illustrated | (publishers' seal) | New York | Harper & Brothers Publishers | 1894

Very clever burlesque ghost stories.

A House-Boat on the Styx | Being Some Account of | The Divers Doings of | The Associated Shades | by | John Kendrick Bangs | Illustrated | (publishers' seal) | New York and London | Harper & Brothers Publishers | 1898

Cartoon concept of the future life.

REX BEACH

1877 —

The Spoilers | by | Rex E. Beach | Illustrated by | Clarence F. Underwood | (publishers' seal) | New York and London | Harper & Brothers Publishers | MCMVI

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Title enclosed in single line borders. Panel line under title.

An Alaskan tale woven around the struggle for mastery between the prospector and capital, otherwise known as "big business." Beach also wrote "The Iron Trail," a similar struggle over the Alaskan railroads, and "The Barrier," a story of the battle for Uncle Sam's great wealth in timber lands.

### THOMAS BEER

1889 —

The Mauve Decade | American Life | At the End of the Nineteenth Century | by | Thomas Beer | (quotation, two lines) | (publishers' seal) | Alfred. A. Knopf. New York | MCMXXVI

Title enclosed in single line borders with decorative curved lines at inside corners.

165 numbered copies signed by the author.

Our victorian age held up to horrid laughter. As a master of a unique pictorial style, and as understanding the mind and ways and talk of the younger generation, Beer's great book is yet to come—or might even now be put together from certain short stories that have appeared in print.

### JAMES BOYD

1888 —

Drums | by | James Boyd | (ornament) | Charles Scribner's Sons | New York. London | 1925

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

First and fourth, fifth and sixth lines enclosed in panel lines. The first issue measures one and five-eighths inches across the covers. Later editions are slightly condensed in form.

A novel of the Revolution by one of the newer writers.

DONN BYRNE

1889-1928

Messer | Marco Polo | by | Donn Byrne |  
Illustrated | by C. B. Falls | (publishers'  
seal) | New York | The Century Co. | 1921

Title enclosed in single line borders.

First edition in dispute. A possible clue is that the dust jackets of the first edition do not mention the number of printings. In later editions the decorative punctuation mark of the period is filled in or worn away instead of showing a small period in a square.

Clever vivifying in novelette form of the life of the great explorer.

BLISS CARMAN

1861 —

Low Tide on Grand Pré: | A Book of Lyrics:  
by | Bliss Carman | (ornament) | Charles  
L. Webster and Company | Publishers New  
York MDCCCXCIII

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Carman is an adopted Canadian and is noted rather as a master of high class verse than famous for any single poem.

### ROBERT W. CHAMBERS

1865—

Iole | by | Robert W. Chambers | D. Appleton & Co. | New York MDCCCCV

Hand-drawn title-page with interwoven butterfly and flower decoration.

Short stories of lonely young men without social contacts in the great city who escaped from their loneliness in a series of then unconventional adventures. Other Chambers books cited are "The King in Yellow," "Cardigan," and "The Maid at Arms."

### IRVIN S. COBB

1876 —

Old Judge Priest | by | Irvin S. Cobb | Author of "Back Home," "Paths of Glory," | Etc. | (publishers' seal) | New York | George H. Doran Company [1916]

Title enclosed in single line border.

Intimate story of Kentucky in the horse racing, bourbon making prime, by one who was born there and called his characters by their front names.

# HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

## RICHARD HARDING DAVIS

1864-1916

Soldiers of Fortune | by | Richard Harding Davis | With Illustrations by | C. D. Gibson | New York | Charles Scribner's Sons |  
1897

A novel of South American politics with a North American hero.  
Romantic? Oh my yes! And does the fine young Engineer (civil)  
get the rich boss's daughter after saving everybody out of a South-  
American-Revolution mess? He does.

And how the girls and boys used to read it, with their Rupert of  
Hentzau and their Graustark!

In The Fog | by | Richard Harding Davis |  
Illustrated by | Thomas Mitchell Peirce |  
& F. D. Steele | (publisher's seal) | New  
York | R. H. Russell | MCMI

Title enclosed in double rule.

The Fog is that of London, and the story is in the first flight of  
the detective variety.

For a complete estimate of Davis, one should also take a volume  
of his short stories, such as "Van Bibber," or "Gallagher:" or that  
last one, "The Deserter." Davis lived a full life as reporter, war  
correspondent and adventurer; and his books will be as valuable a  
record of that period as Owen Wister's books of the Cowboy.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### PAUL LAWRENCE DUNBAR

1872-1906

Majors and Minors: | (double rule) | (ornaments) | (ornaments) Poems (ornaments) | by | Paul Lawrence Dunbar. [Toledo, Ohio] [1895]

A Poet of Color before Poets of Color became fashionable.  
These poems are lyric, not jazz. Mentionable titles are "When Malindy Sings," "Ere Sleep Comes Down," "We Wear the Mask."

### JOHN ERSKINE

1879 —

The | Private Life of | Helen of Troy | by | John Erskine | (ornament) | Indianapolis | The Bobbs-Merrill Company | Publishers [1925]

Above and below are rules and ornaments in orange, as is the ornament after the author's name; balance in black.

A satire on ourselves in the guise of a laugh at ancient history.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### EDNA FERBER

1887 —

So Big | by | Edna Ferber | (publishers' seal) |  
Garden City New York | Doubleday, Page  
& Company | 1924

Title enclosed in single line borders. Outside line  
and ornament in red, balance in black.

First edition so states on copyright page.

The ugly duckling who turns out to be the swan is the mother—  
the son starts as the swan and turns out to be the ugly duckling—  
in the artistic and spiritual sense.

It might be said here that Miss Ferber created the character of  
Emma McChesney, perhaps the first great portrayal of the Amer-  
ican girl "in trade."

### WALDO FRANK

1889 —

Waldo Frank | City Block | (ornament) |  
1922 | Published by Waldo Frank Darien  
Conn.

Hand lettered title-page.

Chicago vignettes by a realistic observer.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

ZONA GALE

1874 —

Miss Lulu Bett | by | Zona Gale | Author of  
“Friendship Village,” “Friendship Village  
Love | Stories,” “The Loves of Pelleas and  
Ettare,” “Birth,” Etc. | (publishers’ seal) |  
D. Appleton and Company | New York  
London | 1920

Title enclosed in double line border.

The struggle for escape of the suppressed relative who is useful  
with the cooking and housework.

ARCHIBALD CLAVERING GUNTER

1847-1907

Mr. Barnes of New York | A Novel | by |  
Archibald Clavering Gunter | Author of the  
Plays | “Prince Karl,” “The Deacon’s  
Daughter,” | “Fresh, The American,”  
“Two Nights | In Rome,” Etc., Etc. |  
(rule) | New York | Deshler Welch & Com-  
pany | 1887

Issued in wrappers and cloth.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Mr. Potter of Texas | A Novel | by Archibald Clavering Gunter | Author of "Mr. Barnes of New York" | (rule) | New York | The Home Publishing Company | 7 East Fourteenth Street | 1888

Issued in wrappers and cloth.

Thrillers of our fathers: permitted grudgingly in the front room, when the "Nick Carters" had to be read behind the barn. They may be known to the future as literature or as literary curiosities.

### JOHN HABBERTON

1842-1921

Helen's Babies. | With | Some Account of Their Ways Innocent, Crafty, | Angelic, Impish, Witching, And Repulsive. | Also, | A Partial Record of Their Actions During Ten Days | of Their Existence. | by | Their Latest Victim. | (ornament) | Loring, Publisher, | Cor. Bromfield & Washington Streets, | Boston. [1876]

Issued both in cloth and wrappers. It is probable that the original issue contained but one leaf of advertisements at the back. Later issues have typographical defects, notably p. 13, l. 11.

Antics of Budge and Toddie who "wanted to see the wheels go round." Side-splitting for our fathers and still amusing.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

BEN HECHT

1893 —

Erik Dorn | by | Ben Hecht | (ornament) |  
G. P. Putnam's Sons | New York and Lon-  
don | The Knickerbocker Press | 1921

Title enclosed in double line box border.

The first edition is probably the one with cover  
lettering in bright yellow.

Tale of a man with several women. Without a moral unless it  
be that such a man always desires the lass he left behind him—when  
it is too late!

Hecht is also the author of "A Thousand and One Afternoons in  
Chicago," vignettes of city life as seen by the observing reporter.  
In his attempt to be bizarre he comes perilously near to being a "peep-  
ing Tom."

E. W. HOWE

1854 —

The | Story of a Country Town. | (rule) |  
By E. W. Howe. | (rule) | Illustrated from  
Original Designs by W. L. Wells. | (rule) |  
Atchison, Kas.: | Howe & Co. | 1883.

A true picture drawn by one of the succession of artists, including  
Mark Twain, Eggleston, Howells, Tarkington, and William Allen  
White, before the small town had a rotary club and a movie theatre  
and a Sinclair Lewis to spoof it.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

JAMES GIBBONS HUNEKER

1860-1921

Steeplejack | by | James Gibbons Huneker |  
(quotation, single line, Walt Whitman) |  
(ornament) | Volume I [Volume II] | New  
York | Charles Scribner's Sons | 1920

A biography of an observer of "high life" from the vantage point  
of a newspaper critic; he did not create, but he saw.

"Painted Veils" is similar material in a freer vein.

FANNIE HURST

(MRS. JACQUES L. DANIELSON)

1889 —

Lummox | by | Fannie Hurst | (publisher's  
seal) | New York | Harper & Brothers |  
MCMXXIII

Special edition, 250 copies, signed.

Story of East Side New York in which the strong-charactered in-  
dividual escapes from that smothering environment out into Amer-  
ica. Told in the modern manner.

"A President is Born" is also mentioned as a book with interest.

WILL JAMES

1892 —

Smoky | The Cowhorse | by | Will James |  
(ornamental illustration of a horse) |

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Charles Scribner's Sons | New York (ornaments) London | 1926

The companionship of the man and his horse in the great solitudes  
sublimated to an epic.

JAMES OTIS KALER

(JAMES OTIS)

1848-1912

Toby Tyler | or | Ten Weeks With a Circus |  
by | James Otis | Illustrated | New York |  
Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square | 1881

No boy ever lived in America who did not have the dream which  
Toby realized and which hundreds of thousands read with envy.

BEN KING

1857-1894

Ben King's Verse | Edited by Nixon Waterman | With Introduction by John McGovern, and | Biography by Opie Read | Drawings Contributed by Chas. A. Gray, W. W. Denslow, H. G. Maratta, | Ray Brown, F. Holmes, J. T. McCutcheon, Horace Taylor, | Wm. Schmedtgen, T. E. Powers, and | Harry O. Landers | Published by | The Press Club of Chicago | 1894

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Prince of humorous verse—author of the most gorgeous parody  
“If I should Die To Night,” also “The Pessimist” who laments,  
“Nowhere to go but out, nowhere to come but back.”

### JOE LINCOLN

1870 —

Cape Cod Ballads | And Other Verse | by  
Joe Lincoln | (Joseph Crosby Lincoln) |  
With Drawings by Edward W. Kemble |  
(publisher's ornament) | Albert Brandt:  
Publisher | Trenton, New Jersey | 1902

That curious animal, the Cape Cod Native, depicted in his lair,  
and in rhyme. Joe has also depicted this fellow in prose, but I haven't  
yet determined which title should be selected as distinctive.

### CHARLES MAJOR

1856-1913

When Knighthood Was | In Flower | or | The  
Love Story of | Charles Brandon and Mary  
Tudor | The King's Sister, And Happening  
in the Reign of | His August Majesty, King  
Henry VIII | Rewritten and Rendered into  
Modern English from | Sir Edwin Caskoden's Memoir | by Edwin Caskoden | In-  
dianapolis and Kansas City | The Bowen-  
Merrill Company | MDCCCXCVIII

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

First two lines and publishers' name in red, balance in black.

Picturing what a heluva time a man has who falls in love with the King's sister whose marriage is an affair of state, not of the heart.

Millions of readers seem to have been interested in how he got his gal in the end.

### MARGARET MARSHALL

“MARSHALL SAUNDERS”

1861 —

Beautiful Joe | An Autobiography | By Marshall Saunders | Author of “My Spanish Sailor” | With an Introduction | by | Hezekiah Butterworth | Of Youth’s Companion | (vignette) | Philadelphia | Charles H. Banes | 1420 Chestnut Street 1894

The “Black Beauty” of the dog world.

### GEORGE BARR McCUTCHEON

1866–1928

Graustark | The Story of a Love | Behind a Throne | by | George Barr McCutcheon | (publishers’ ornament) | Herbert S. Stone and Company | Eldridge Court, Chicago | MDCCCCI

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Title enclosed in double line border with panel lines under first, third, fifth lines and over publishers' name. Publishers' ornament in red, balance in black.

In the first issue, page 150, line 6, "Noble's" appears instead of "Lorry's" as in the later issues.

First and greatest of those imaginary small kingdom romances.

### H. L. MENCKEN

1880 —

In Defense | of Women | by H. L. Mencken |  
Pphilip Goodman: New York : 1918

Note the misprint on title-page, Pphilip for Philip.

Giving representation to our most sanguinary critic—the title captivates me because our women no longer need defending—a series of clever essays in small.

### CHRISTOPHER MORLEY

1890 —

Parnassus On Wheels | by | Christopher Morley | (publishers' ornament) | Garden City  
New York | Doubleday, Page & Company  
| 1917

Title enclosed in single border.

Page 4, line 8, has long space between "y" and "ears."

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Where the | Blue Begins | by | Christopher Morley | (publishers' ornament) | (quotation, four lines, William Blake) | Garden City New York | Doubleday, Page & Company | 1922

Title enclosed in double line borders. Inside border and publishers' ornament in red, balance in black.

First edition so states on copyright page. It is said also that there were a few advance copies sent out in wrappers.

Translations | from the | Chinese | by | Christopher Morley | New (publishers' monogram) York | George H. Doran Company [1922]

For incisive cleverness the little poetic satires of "Translations" etc., are nearest hits, although some are over topical. "Where the Blue Begins" is a whimsical tale of a humanized dog, and "Parnassus on Wheels" is a nice yarn of a travelling book-store.

## GEORGE POPE MORRIS

1802-1864

The | Deserted Bride; | and | other Poems. | by George P. Morris. | New-York: | Adlard & Saunders, Broadway. | MDCCCXXXVIII.

Contains "The Oak," better known by the first line, "Woodman, spare that tree!"

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### EUGENE O'NEILL

1888 —

The Hairy Ape | Anna Christie | The First  
Man | by | Eugene O'Neill | Boni and  
Liveright | Publishers New York [1922]

O'Neill is at this writing our most esteemed and successful playwright. The difficulty in rating plays with other literature seems to be that most people who appreciate a play as spoken cannot follow it as written. Shakespeare, Shaw, and others have survived this handicap. But in rating O'Neill for the future one must guess whether he will surmount that hurdle.

I submit the book above as containing typical work and have been assured that his latest play, "Strange Interlude," is quite readable.

### ALICE HEGAN [RICE]

1870 —

Mrs. Wiggs of the | Cabbage Patch | by |  
Alice Caldwell Hegan | (illustration) | Pub-  
lished by the Century Co. | New York . .  
MCMI

"The Cabbage Patch" was a slang name for the "poor-quarter" in which lived the "Widdy-lady" with great troubles and great optimism.

### ELIZABETH MADOX ROBERTS

1894 —

The Time of Man | A Novel | Elizabeth Madox  
Roberts | (publishers' mark) | New York |  
The Viking Press | MCMXXVI

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Title enclosed in double line border.

Life and labor in the Kentucky hill country. In spite of the title it is the story of Ellen, who starts to work in a tobacco field at a tender age, marries, raises a family, and we leave her following her man to another place to settle down to more labor. The character bits are finely done, and a spiritual fineness depicted in this woman of the "poor whites."

### EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON

1869 —

The Man Against the Sky | A Book of Poems |  
by | Edwin Arlington Robinson | New York |  
The Macmillan Company | 1916 | All Rights  
Reserved

The title poem is said to represent the best of Robinson's genius. In addition to his many collections of short verse, he is the author of a long epic, "Tristram," which has admirers.

### JOHN JEROME ROONEY

1866 —

An | American Anthology | 1787-1900 | Selections Illustrating the Editor's Critical | Review of American Poetry in the | Nineteenth Century | Edited by | Edmund Clarence Stedman | Author of "Poets of America," "Victorian Poets," Etc. | and Editor of "A Victorian Anthology" | In Two Volumes | Vol. II | (publishers' seal) | Cam-

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

bridge | Printed at the Riverside Press |  
1900

Large paper limited edition, with paper label.

The first book appearance for that rallying song of the Spanish-American War, "The Men Behind the Guns."

## ROBERT W. SERVICE

1876 —

Songs of a Sourdough | by | Robert W. Service | (ornament) | Toronto: | William Briggs | 1907

Contains that riotous epic of Alaska, "The Shooting of Dan McGrew."

## HENRY A. SHUTE

1856 —

The | Real Diary | of a | Real Boy | (ornament) | by | Henry A. Shute | The Everett Press| Boston, Mass., Mcmii

Title enclosed in double line border. Double panel lines under fourth and sixth lines.

Boy tricks told in boy slang and still amusing to the grown-up boys.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### VANCE THOMPSON

1863-1925

The Carnival | of Destiny | by | Vance Thompson | Author of "Drink and Be Sober," "Eat and Grow | Thin," "The Ego Book," Etc. | (publishers' mark) | New York | Moffat, Yard & Company | 1916

A novel of transmigration, beginning in prehistoric days and ending with Edgar Allan Poe. The crux of each episode is the frustration of the male character in his love affair by some more physically powerful brute.

### GLENWAY WESTCOTT

1901 —

The | Grandmothers | A Family Portrait | by | Glenway Westcott | (publisher's seal) | You do not see me as I once was. | Children, get out the photographs. | —My Grandmother | Publishers | Harper & Brothers | New York and London | 1927

Limited to 250 signed copies, paper label.

Human portraits, powerfully, sympathetically done.

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### JAMES McNEILL WHISTLER

1834-1903

The Gentle Art of | Making Enemies: |  
Edited by Sheridan Ford | New York |  
Frederick Stokes & Brother | (rule) | 1890

Issued in wrappers. Printed in Ghent, with varying title-pages, New York and Paris. Other things being identical it seems that the volume carrying the imprint of the author's native land is preferred. There is a long story about a previous edition which Whistler suppressed, leaving only one personal copy undestroyed.

This and That by and about one of the world's picturesque geniuses. Trained at West Point to be a soldier, Whistler turned to the field of art and literature to fight his enemies with the rapiers of brush and pen.

### KATE DOUGLAS WIGGIN

1856-1923

Rebecca | of Sunnybrook | Farm | by | Kate  
Douglas Wiggin | Boston and New York |  
Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The  
Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1903

Title enclosed in single line border with inner rectangles, top rectangle with pictorial design of farmhouse above first line and including fifth, balance in lower rectangle. Borders and illustration in green, balance in black.

A "Little Woman" of the nineties.

## *PART III*

### NOTES AND COMMENTS

Where are the manuscripts of these American masterpieces? I should be glad to have the owner of any of them write to me as certificate of the pleasing knowledge of their survival.

The American and English manuscripts of "Tom Sawyer" are in the hands of New York collectors. "Puddn'head Wilson" and "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table" are in the Morgan Library. I think I saw the manuscript of "Hadleyburg" on Robert Collier's library table. Where are "Uncle Remus," the "Last of the Mohicans," etc.?

Dr. Rosenbach predicts the greatest value for American manuscripts in the writings of Herman Melville and Eugene O'Neill. I respect the Doctor's sage judgment but it seems to me that "The One Hoss Shay," "The Raven," "The Red Badge of Courage," "Snow-Bound," "The Last of the Mohicans," "The Sketch-book," "Ben-Hur," "Tom Sawyer," among others, would all step ahead of his choices. Melville and O'Neill have created no characters that live in the popular mind, and O'Neill rests under the handicap of the playwright, lack of readability, escaped by Shakespeare, perhaps Shaw and Ibsen.

\* \* \*

I quote without permission from Harry Hansen's column in the New York World part of a review of

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Maxwell Bodenheim's "Georgie May" which gives an interesting side-light on certain aspects of literature.

"When an able writer uses all his gifts to depict dirt and squalor the reader again asks the immemorial question: 'Why waste time on such characters?' For ages authors have answered according to their insight; some have made propaganda for the downtrodden by painting their suffering; others have plied naturalism as a reaction to romanticism; the Victorians used such women for contrast and as horrible examples of the wages of sin; more recently the theory that the artist may write about anything he pleases has opened windows on garbage heaps, ash dumps and abattoirs. Every man to his taste.

"But Mr. Bodenheim's preoccupation with these themes arises partly out of the sincerity of an artist who writes about a life he had studied at first hand, and partly because he sees in these distorted, unlovely people of the underworld a protest against the shams and hypocrisies of the self-confessed respectable. So he contemplates the scene and the interplay of motives and moods with the aloof leer of the ironist.

• • • • •

This is made plain on page 207 of this novel, where Mr. Bodenheim after describing the vile life in jail of this Southern town, seems to have set down his own creed as an author:

"O concrete evils of life, vileness inflicted by men upon their fellow human beings, you need a cold, specific, dispassionate exposure. The social-radical moans, declaims, rants against you, to little avail; the humanitarian weeps and softly scolds; the slam-bang cultured critic ignores you in favor of such feeble targets as Rotary Clubs, literary censors, and small-town yokels. You are wiped out in one place only to crop up in another, or in a different guise. Since you can never be wiped from the earth, what is left? The quiet, exact, hopeless exposures of irony, removed alike from tears and rage at one end and ingenious defense of cruelty at the other."

\* \* \*

Behind the raised palms it is being whispered that I am a crank as to "broken type." Bless you, my old dears, that is only modern scientific methods getting

## HIGH SPOTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

into the determination of first editions. A good practical printer can tell more about first editions than all your experts. He knows the mysteries of make-ready, stereotyping, plate making and all that and you just can't fool him with an "old wives' tale."

Up to a certain period books were printed from the actual type. Then came the "plates" and in the later books of huge editions, many plates on many presses. But in the handling of type or plates for a second edition something *must* happen. A corner of a plate is dented when it is put in or taken out of storage; if the damage is very obvious, it is patched with new type, and, to a trained eye, that patch is also obvious.

The "rule of thumb" as to first edition, when more than one edition appears in the first year of printing, is to compare the variorum copies in the first year with an acknowledged reprint and whichever agrees with the reprint is a second edition. But mere argument as to probabilities leads nowhere; it is sound argument that the publisher leaves off expensive features from his second edition to save money; it is equally sound argument that the publisher puts on expensive features in his second printing to have the book more attractive and to make money! Then again—what should the collector prefer—the first binding or the first printing? We will assume that a mistake is made and corrected. The corrected sheets lie on top of the pile and are first sent to the bindery. There you have the first binding and the second printing! Such is probably the case with "Huckleberry Finn" and "Jennie Gerhardt," for instance.

As to the bound-in (not printed-in) advertisements

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of the early American books, a theory is advanced that the publisher in his first binding, particularly review copies, would be careful to put his latest list of books; but on a later binding would not be so particular and to save expense would put in whatever sheets of ads. he had ready printed even of earlier date. An instance of this is the second edition of "The Scarlet Letter" with ads. of the year previous.

\* \* \*

The following list is taken from William Dean Howells' "The Great Modern American Short Stories." Howells was not only a writer, but also, as the editor of magazines, had to do with the selection of manuscripts.

MY DOUBLE AND HOW HE UNDID ME. E. E. Hale.  
CIRCUMSTANCES. Harriet Prescott Spofford.  
A PASSIONATE PILGRIM. Henry James.  
THE CELEBRATED JUMPING FROG. Mark Twain.  
A PRODIGAL IN TAHITI. Charles Warren Stoddard.  
THE OUTCASTS OF POKER FLAT. Bret Harte.  
THE CHRISTMAS WRECK. Frank Stockton.  
THE MISSION OF JANE. Edith Wharton.  
THE COURTING OF SISTER WISBY. Sarah Orne Jewett.  
THE REVOLT OF MOTHER. Mary E. Wilkins Freeman.  
TOLD IN THE POORHOUSE. Alice Brown.  
THE RETURN OF A PRIVATE. Hamlin Garland.  
STRIKING AN AVERAGE. Henry B. Fuller.  
EFFIE WHITTLESEY. George Ade.  
THE LOST PHEBE. Theodore Dreiser.  
THE OCCURRENCE AT OWL CREEK BRIDGE. Ambrose Bierce.  
A FAILURE. Edith Wyatt.  
THE YELLOW WALL PAPER. Charles Perkins Stetson Gilman.  
THE LITTLE ROOM. Madeline Yale Wynne.  
AUNT NANNA TERRY. Landon R. Dashiell.  
THE LOTUS EATERS. Virginia Tracy.  
JEAN-AH POQUELIN. George W. Cable (*Old Creole Days*).  
BRER RABBIT, BRER FOX, AND THE TAR BABY. Joel Chandler Harris (*Uncle Remus*).

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The following authors and books have been suggested to me as important by friends, kibitzers, and literary acquaintances. I have not had time to examine them all to record my own opinion, so pass the list on to you. Each book must have some or great merit, or would not have been recommended.

EBEN HOLDEN. Irving Bacheller.  
JOHN BROWN'S BODY. Stephen Vincent Benét.  
THE GREEN BAY TREE. Louis Bromfield.  
TIGER. Witter Bynner.  
GET RICH QUICK WALLINGFORD. George Randolph Chester.  
CONISTON, RICHARD CARVEL, THE CRISIS. Winston Churchill.  
THE ENORMOUS ROOM. E. E. Cummings.  
MOON CALF. Floyd Dell.  
THE CLIFF DWELLERS. Henry B. Fuller.  
THE ROMANTIC COMEDIANS. Ellen Glasgow.  
THE SUN ALSO RISES. Ernest Hemingway.  
ROAN STALLION AND OTHER POEMS. Robinson Jeffers.  
THE COUNTRY OF THE POINTED FIRS. Sarah Orne Jewett.  
LITTLE CITIZENS. Myra Kelly.  
THE QUEST OF THE GOLDEN GIRL—AN OLD COUNTRY HOUSE. Richard Le Gallienne.  
THE CONGO—WHEN GENERAL BOOTH ENTERS HEAVEN. Vachel Lindsay.  
STRINGTOWN ON THE PIKE. John Uri Lloyd.  
GRAPHICS. Harris Merton Lyon.  
THE WILD PARTY. Joseph Moncure March.  
EMMY LOU. George Madden Martin.  
THE SONG OF HUGH GLASS. John G. Neihardt.  
QUINCY ADAMS SAWYER. Charles Felton Pidgin.  
LUSTRA. Ezra Pound.  
THE RED MARK. John Russell.  
MR. INCOU'L'S MISADVENTURE. Edgar Saltus.  
THREE LIVES. Gertrude Stein.  
LYRICS. John B. Tabb.  
THE STORY OF KENNEDY. Bayard Taylor.  
CANE. Jean Toomer.  
DARIUS GREEN AND HIS FLYING MACHINE. John Townsend Trowbridge.

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PETER WHIFFLE. Carl van Vechten.

POEMS OF PASSION. Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY. Thornton Wilder.

\* \* \*

A published consensus of a list of the best books in the English language gives Shakespeare a maximum of 31 points. The first American book to appear is "The Scarlet Letter" with 19 points. "The Last of the Mohicans" follows with 18, pressed by other Coopers, "The Spy," and "The Deerslayer." Evangeline gets 15, and "Huck Finn" scores 13 over "Tom Sawyer's" 11. Irving's "Sketch Book" gets 11.

\* \* \*

The "mystery story" fan has always to be catered to. Wasn't it Anna Katherine Green Rohlfs who wrote "The Leavenworth Case"; and Mary Roberts Rinehart, the author of the "Circular Staircase"? And how about White and Adams' "The Mystery"? White once wrote an admirer: "No doubt I wrote those parts of the story you think are best. If you ask Adams he will probably claim them!"

\* \* \*

Did you know that W. Clark Russell was born in New York City? Why, then, should we not list his "Wreck of the Grosvenor"? England has claimed that Pole, Conrad, as we claim that citizen of the world, Hearn. As in athletics, they are native when they win and foreign when they lose.

\* \* \*

John T. Winterich, in *The Publishers' Weekly*, has

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this to say of the pleasures of prophecy in the first-edition field:

"My selection of the gods of the future is confined solely to American writers because there will be no difficulty met in procuring their first editions as they come from the publishers, and at the regular published prices. Another and far more important reason for confining the choice to Americans is the gratifying fact that there is more promise and vitality among this than any other class in the world to-day. First are to be considered the novelists who are interpreting, according to their various lights, the life, color and movement of our times, all artists, some of the first water, others showing potentialities of future greatness.

"One of the writer's prime favorites, Thomas Beer, who has a new volume appearing this spring; Louis Bromfield, our own Galsworthy; Donald Corley, heir apparent to the throne of Cabell; Roark Bradford, lineal descendant of Uncle Remus; Julian Green, the brilliant young Franco-American; Jacland Marmen, a budding young Conrad; Ernest Hemingway, already famous for his muscular exposition of expatriates; Eleanor Chilton, sorceress of beautiful images; Ruth Suckow, Glenway Westcott, Elizabeth M. Roberts, Julia Peterkin, Thornton Wilder, Philip Wylie, Scott Fitzgerald and DuBose Heyward.

"Next come the poets, some singing songs of Araby, others lending serious ear to our daily rhythms. New England finds another interpreter worth mentioning in the same breath with Robert Frost in Raymond Holden. Nearly all critics would agree that 'Spoon River Anthology' is the most distinguished volume of verse since Whitman's 'Leaves of Grass'; Donald Davidson, who owes not a little to Masters, is capable of matching 'Spoon River'; George O'Neil, conjuror of verses; those rebellious youths, Marianne Moore and E. E. Cummings. 'Boy in the Wind,' by George Dillon, was hailed as the most remarkable volume of verse since Edna St. Vincent Millay. The eloquent Lew Sarrett, Elizabeth Coatsworth, Louise Bogan and Allen Tate. Not the least significant of contributions to our American literature is being made by the negro, as a study of the following shining talents will reveal: Eugene O'Neill has a dusky rival in Paul Green; Claude McKay in 'Home to Harlem' shows what tinsel flummery Carl Van Vechten's 'Nigger Heaven' was; Countee Cullen sings in verse like Roland Hayes does in voice; Langston Hughes has discovered the deepest shade in indigo; Jean Toomer, brilliant exponent of expressionism; Walter White, Eric

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Walrond, Howard Odum and James Weldon Johnson. It would be interesting twenty years hence to peruse the auction records and dealers' catalogues and see how many in the above groups came through as collectors' items."

\* \* \*

Many a badly painted picture is hung in an art museum because it is of an interesting epoch, sartorial or historical. So many a badly told tale "gets over" because it is of an interesting period historically.

\* \* \*

One of the great book-dealers recently said to me: "Every bibliography of first editions must be prefaced with an apology." Meaning that some book-Einstein would inevitably come along with a new theory. While I apologize for what bibliographic mistakes may be found in this list—I do not apologize for the list itself: I have done my best—and only the future can judge.

THE END

## NOTES

























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